

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN-NORTH BROOKLYN
WITH CARROLL GARDENS, COBBLE HILL, BOHEMIA HILL, FORT GREENE, CLINTON HILL, DUMBO, WILLIAMSBURG, GREENPOINT

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Miss New York Leigh-Taylor Smith—who was just promoted from Miss Brooklyn—shows off her winning form along the DUMBO waterfront. Here, Smith enjoys her favorite newspaper.

Miss New York is really 'real'

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

They're spectacular—and they're real.

In an exclusive interview with The Brooklyn Paper, Leigh-Taylor Smith—the former Miss Brooklyn who will represent us in the Miss America pageant in January—silenced whispers about the authenticity of two of her assets.

"I've never had cosmetic surgery," she said. "I'm comfortable with myself the way I am."

Not that there's anything wrong with it, she added.

"If it makes a woman—or a man—feel more comfortable with themselves, they should go ahead," Smith said. "But I've never had it."

Despite getting those accusations off her chest, the 22-year-old brunette bombshell did not fully appease skeptics.

"They're too perfect," said Peter Naas of Queens after seeing last week's front page of The Brooklyn Paper, a collector's edition that featured Smith in a two-piece bikini. "If she told me she could fly, I would believe her [more]."

Fellow observer Paul Walker also preferred to believe his own eyes rather than Smith's claim.

"I'd say they're fake," said Walker, who lives the South Slope.

It's not the first time Smith has come under scrutiny for not being a real New Yorker.

The vivacious Virginia native first took flak in February after she won the Miss Brooklyn title despite living in (say it ain't so!) Manhattan.

At the time, Smith said she had strong ties to Brooklyn because she belongs to the Brooklyn Tabernacle, a church on Fulton Mall in Downtown.

But now, she has a broader take on the subject.

"I'm representing a state that is certainly known as a melting pot, and I'm a part of that, too," she said.

And what could be more "New York" than coming to the city after college from another part of the country?

"She's here living her dream to become an interior designer, and she's here living her dream to be Miss America," said Kimberly Thomas, executive director of the Miss Brooklyn pageant. "Isn't that what New York is all about—moving here for greater opportunity?"

Now that Smith has put the controversies behind her, she promises that her tenure as Miss New York will be scandal-free.

"It's about leading a respectable life," said Smith. "You guys don't have to worry about me."

Smith—a University of Virginia alum who has twice volunteered in South Africa as an absence educator—is hoping to be crowned Miss America on a platform that calls for mandatory volunteerism for high school students.

COBBLE HILL HOSPITAL TO KILL MATERNITY WARD HASTA LA VISTA, BABIES!

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Cash-strapped Long Island College Hospital wants to close its popular, but costly, maternity department and will sell off additional property to reduce its deficit and pay down a \$170-million debt.

Top executives of the Manhattan-based Continuum Health Partners, which owns the beleaguered Cobble Hill medical facility, announced the obituary yesterday on Wednesday as the latest phase of what could be a lengthy "restructuring."

"We are taking this approach because not to do so would leave LICH in even greater jeopardy and bring about far more adverse consequences," said Continuum President and CEO Stanley Breznoff, a former deputy mayor and former head of the Port Authority.

Last week, Continuum announced that LICH President and CEO Rita Battles had resigned—though it appeared that she was fired in a dispute over the direction of the coming restructuring.

Breznoff said the reorganization plan would allow LICH to remain "a community hospital" focusing mainly on internal medicine, surgery and emergency visits.

Last year, LICH had 22,830 patients—and delivered 2,800 babies.

Cutting the cord on its obstetrics department follows a number of other cost-cutting measures at the hospital. Earlier this summer, LICH closed its rape victims counseling clinic, and has raised \$24 million by selling off some real-estate holdings, including the landmark Lamm Institute at the corner of Amity and Henry streets.

New the hospital is also planning to sell the Polhemus Building across the street and an administrative building at 97 Amity St.

Continuum officials said that LICH's financial woes are part of a larger health care crisis that has ruined urban hospitals, like Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge, which closed as a hospital to live on only as an outpatient facility.

But medical staff at LICH said their hospital's financial problems have been exacerbated by mismanagement.

"The medical staff of Long Island College Hospital views Continuum's plan to 'reorganize' the hospital as an admission of abject failure to manage a hospital that was... providing quality health care for 150 years," Dr. Arnold Licht, president of the medical staff, said in a statement.

The obstetrics department operates at an \$11-million loss and carries high malpractice expenses, Breznoff said. But it does have something money can't buy: a solid reputation.

"I've come here for prenatal care, regular checkups, delivery, everything. I live in Bed-Stuy and I would have gone to Woodhull, but I figured I'd get better care here," said Tamica Goodchild, who was at the hospital on Wednesday with her 4-month-old daughter Ariel. "Some of my family had good experiences here. I have no complaints with my doctors."

The restructuring plan could reduce the number of hospital beds from the current 500 down to 250. Shuttering the OB-GYN ward requires state Department of Health approval.

—with Michael Lipkin

D'town going to the dogs?

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

It's a watershed moment for Downtown.

As new residents move in to the predominantly commercial area, so too are residents' dogs, and, in an area unaccustomed to the needs of a 24-7 population, there are very few places where residents can walk—and relieve—their Fidos and Fiffs.

The open space most convenient to many of the buildings—including the BellFlt Lofts at Bridge and Willoughby streets—is the green commons within the Metrotech campus, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue Extension.

But the management company that oversees the complex recently prohibited dogs from the area, roping off the commons and posing bright

yellow signs that read, "No dogs on the grass, please."

(That said, there is a very realistic statue of a yellow Labrador Retriever standing at the ready, next to the sign.)

In the early mornings, the ritual of taking one's dog out for a quick walk is now as much a part of the Metrotech Commons traffic as is corporate workers who are early to work, snagging their hot coffee and darting into office buildings.

Even during a quick walk, in the evenings, it is common to see young women walking their small, fluffy lapdogs and larger, beeper men run past with their bulldogs.

Young mothers now bring their children play in the grass, and but carefully steer their dogs away from the same inviting lawns.

See D'TOWN DOGS on page 11



Amy Troni walks her cocker spaniel at Metrotech in Downtown, long a commercial district. Now, new residents mean new dogs.

OPEN & SHUT CASES

Grimaldi's settles with tax man

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Grimaldi's is back in good stead with the state taxman, authorities said.

When state officials shut down the internationally renowned DUMBO pizzeria for about four hours on Wednesday, July 23, they said the cash-only restaurant and its parent company, Parabile Inc., owed about \$150,000 in sales taxes and paycheck withholding dating back to 2006, with the amount later rising to \$165,261.

But the famed cook-oven joint paid its bill.

"We can't disclose the terms of those agreements, but we're happy that it was settled," said state tax department spokesman Tom Bergin.

Owner Frank Ciolli told The Brooklyn Paper that the dispute was the result of "some kind of accounting error."

"It was a couple of hours' interruption" and "no big deal," he added.



A man looks into Busy Chef on Henry Street, a day after the restaurant closed.

'Chef' quits cooking

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

The disgraced Busy Chef restaurant empire has closed amid a criminal investigation into former partner Dan Kaufman, who is accused of swindling \$25,000 from customers' credit card numbers.

All four adjoining restaurants—the upscale pizzeria, Oven; the Blue Pig ice cream shop; the Wine Bar 50 Henry Street; and Busy Chef—closed on Monday night, making for a dark corner at the former foodie destination at Henry and Cranberry streets in Brooklyn Heights.

"They closed it up at 11—they just shut everything down and started throwing out the food," a source said.

An e-mail to one owner, Alan Young, was not answered.

But a source familiar with the investigation said he may know why the restaurants closed: "They can't afford to pay people—they're not making money to pay the employees."

Cops arrested Kaufman, 34, on July 17 and charged him with

See BUSTED CHEF on page 11



The murdered body of a homeless man was found on Prospect Park's Lookout Hill early on Wednesday morning.

Prospect Park's pathway of death

By Allison Bosworth
The Brooklyn Paper

The discovery of the dead body of a homeless man inside Prospect Park early on Wednesday is being investigated as a homicide, cops said.

Since the hotel's "soft" opening on July 7, rooms have been going for \$199—a bargain in New York City—so many guests have been using the Nu as a launch pad to Manhattan. But the hotel's general manager encourages visitors to give Brooklyn a fair shake, too.

"People are going to say Brooklyn is not a destination location—I think it is," said Bertrand Nelson, whose megawatt smile is as much a show of hospitality as his hotel's thick terry-cloth bathrobes.

Local businesses certainly hope they get some of that runoff from travelers in the area.

"Hopefully, it will bring tourists to Atlantic Avenue," said the boulevard's chief advocate, Sandy Balboza. "We have restaurants and shopping with a local flavor."



Be his guest! General Manager Bertrand Nelson in the lobby of the Nu Hotel on Smith Street—opposite the House of D.

Nu Hotel tourists hail jail Visitors unfazed by barbed-wired neighbor

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

No location is too unlikely for a new hotel in Brooklyn, not the manufacturing district around the Gowanus Canal and, now, not even a site across Smith Street from the soon-to-reopen Brooklyn House of Detention.

The Nu Hotel, the second boutique operation to open in the borough in a year, stands opposite the inactive jail on Atlantic Avenue in a juxtaposition that few people would have ever imagined possible years ago.

Guests in the 93-room hotel, which takes up three floors in an otherwise luxury condo building at 85 Smith St., have been surprised, but not troubled, by the lockdown.

"We just figured out it was a jail yesterday. I was wondering what's all that barbed wire on top of that building," said Cassie Richardson, visiting Brooklyn from Florida. "This is still a nice hotel so it doesn't bother me."

For others, the House of D firms a pleasing mishmash on the block.

"Where else are you going to find a hotel across from a clothing store, a restaurant, a bail bonds place and a jail?" asked Sean McCall. "That's one of those diverse things you got to love about Brooklyn."

External contradictions give way to anecdotal interior in the Nu Hotel. An artwork by Jean-Michel Basquiat hangs on a wall, blackboards line the bathroom for notes to self and staff ("Extra 300-thread-count pillows to-night, please!"), and stenciled quotations from celebrity Brooklynites are potential conversation starters, like this Henry Miller epigram: "One's destination is never a place, but rather

a new way of looking at things."

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The Nu Hotel on Smith Street is across from the House of D.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Compiled by Lauren Schwartzberg

The perfect bagel is only blocks away

With five locations throughout Brownstone Brooklyn and 12 varieties of hand rolled bagels, the perfect bagel is only a few blocks away.

La Bagel Delight has been serving Brooklyn for over 20 years and its bakers and countermen really know what they're doing. Quick and friendly service gets you in and out in a hurry — and the quality will keep you coming back.

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They'll create specialty heroes for under \$10 — choices include "The Chicken Fantastic," which is a spectacular platter of chicken cutlet layered with bacon and melted cheese on a bed of lettuce and tomato, and "The Godfather," a thick layer of ham, salami, pepperoni, provolone, lettuce, tomato, roasted pepper, oil and vinegar all packed in a sandwich so big that it feels like a mob robot (hence the name).

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To order bagels online, visit www.labageldelight.com.

Quit Smoking with Dr. Nasso

If trying to quit smoking through nicotine gum, the patch, or going cold turkey isn't working for you, don't worry because there is hope in Dr. Frank Nasso's pain-free auriculotherapy treatment. A former smoker himself, Dr. Nasso had trouble quitting — but when he tried acupuncture, it worked! Now Dr. Nasso is out to help everyone who is going through what he already did, with a quitting program that is believed to have a higher success rate than anything else out there.

Auriculotherapy is a basic form of acupuncture that does not include needles.

Dr. Nasso's therapy works in three parts — the first deals with the smoker's appetite, the second speeds up the metabolism and the third curbs sugar cravings.

These three changes happen during the first four-hour session, where almost all of the work is done to relieve the patient of his addiction. After this session, three additional shorter sessions are required, one per month, after which the patient is a successful quitter.

This might all seem far too easy, but as one of his patients put it, "Dr. Nasso has unlocked the mystery of quitting smoking."

Dr. Nasso's office is at 4546 Hylan Blvd., next to Woods of Arden, in Staten Island. Visit his www.drnasso.com or call (718) 966-7100.

Eco-friendly printing

If you think that printing cannot be done in an environmentally friendly fashion, you have never visited Rolling Press. The company prints with soy and vegetable inks, uses 100-percent recycled paper, is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, incorporates a chemical-free production process, and uses wind-generated power to produce all paper products.

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Mail-in recycling of CFL bulbs, batteries, and electronics

Waste Management, North America's leading provider of comprehensive waste management services and a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities, has launched ThinkGreenFromHome.com.

This online service provides for the recycling of all household waste including compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and batteries, and will eventually cover all household electronics.

For information on CFLs, battery and electronic waste recycling, or to order recycling kits, visit www.thinkgreenfromhome.com.

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THE CYCLONES of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage

Cyclones tried to find something to grow on

By Ed Shakespeare

Recognizing the Cyclones is hard enough, but this year's crop is making it even harder.

Several members of the starting line-up, perhaps inspired by this reporter's mustache (though, more likely, inspired by a desire to turn around the team's early season struggles), stopped shaving for a fortnight.

John Servidio missed the origin of the "vaches."

"After the Onocenta series [when the Cyclones were swept by the Tigers], we decided we



Cyclone outfielder John Servidio, newly shorn.

needed a change, so a lot of us started growing mustaches," the right fielder said.

It was certainly working: Servidio was 11-for-29 with five RBIs during his shave-free eight games.

Reliever Jimmy Johnson also refrained from razoring.

"We all wanted to try something new," added Johnson, who gave up just two hits in his 4-2/3 innings with facial hair. "I called my girlfriend and said I'm growing a mustache, and she said, 'No, you're not.' And I said, 'But you're not here.'"

"I guess I'm keeping it until we go bad, and then that thing is gone as soon as we get in here [the clubhouse]."

The team was 5-4 during the shaving hiatus, but that wasn't good enough, Servidio said.

"I was doing OK, I guess, but the team wasn't, so I shaved it off."

The new strategy appeared to be working, too: during Monday night's win in Staten Island, Servidio hit a monstrous solo homer.

It was certainly not a close shave, either!

'Wright' stuff at Keyspan

for The Brooklyn Paper

Cyclones Wright and two former Cyclones — Carlos Muniz and Joe Smith — watched the Cyclones defeat Vermont at Keyspan Park on July 24.

The trio took in the night game after defeating the Phillies in a game at Shea Stadium to move into first place in the National League East.

Wright, the All-Star infielder, was in Brooklyn to see his childhood friend, Matt Smith, play shortstop for the Cyclones.

Muniz was a closer for the Cyclones in 2003 and 2004, and is now a Mets reliever, as is Joe Smith, who closed for the Cyclones in 2006.

But Wright wasn't just a tourist — he was a motivational speaker, too.

"He wished us good luck and

welcomed us to the Mets' organization," said Cyclones third baseman, Eric Campbell.

"He talked about what he does with two strikes. Simple stuff, but it helped a lot."

Wright also offered the team advice about handling pressure situations.

"The thing he stressed it was [in a pressure at-bat] the pitcher's the one in trouble," said Campbell. "We just have to concentrate and not press."

Cyclones manager Edgar Alonzo also appreciated Wright's visit.

"That was good for the kids to spend some time with David. He told them about making the adjustments from high school or college to the pros," said the Brooklyn skipper. "A visit from David Wright — that was big."



Mets legend David Wright (center) got his first look at Keyspan Park with his teammates (and former Brooklyn Cyclones stars) Joe Smith (left) and Carlos Muniz (right) last week.

It must have been. The Cyclones didn't win the game 9-1, but rapped out eight hits, including a homer by J.R. Voyle.

Campbell, who appreciated the pre-game talk, was 4-for-4 with three RBIs.

Wright's pal, Matt Smith? He was 1-for-1 with three walks.

Wright may be a power hitter, but his visit apparently inspired starting pitcher Brad Hol, too (or maybe it was the presence of Cyclone legends Muniz and Smith). He struck out 14 batters in just six innings of two-hit, shutout ball.

Perhaps David Wright can stop by more often!

— Shakespeare

Relish is still a big fat loser!

for The Brooklyn Paper

It's not easy being the top dog in any field, but when you're Relish and an almost an automatic almost loser in the Na-tur's Hot Dog Race every night in front of 7,000 fans, it's especially tough.

And when that going gets tough, what does Relish do? He gets going. But not to the finish line, of course. No, Relish is a loveable loser. Rather than try to actually win, he visits fans, he looks at the players in the field, or he talks to King Henry, the Cyclones' court jester. In fact, he goes everywhere but where he's supposed to go, and his lack of focus costs him race after race.

The Brooklyn Paper recently managed an exclusive interview with the underachieving dog, who has won just twice in 20 attempts so far, according to Cyclone



Relish has continued his losing ways at Keyspan Park.

spokesman Dave Campanaro.

That's pretty bad, though it's a big improvement in some ways. After all, in 2007, Relish lost every single race at Keyspan Park, compiling an astounding 0-37 record.

This week, he savored his two wins.

"Any race I win is a good race," said Relish. "I don't keep any records, but [when] I win, I relish the moment."

Relish then explained a re-

cent loss.

"Hot dog racing is hard; it's a dog-eat-dog world on the field. I was winning a race the other night, savoring the moment and looking at the fans, when Mustang and Ketchup clotheslined me, and I lost again."

This reporter suggested that the easily distracted Relish should consult with Cyclones pitching coach Hector Berrios, an innovative guru noted for helping pitchers develop their ability to concentrate.

"I think Hector could help me," agreed Relish, but then he once again revealed his inability to concentrate when he misunderstood the question, apparently thinking that Berrios could make him into a Cyclones' hurler.

"But then again, if I did pitch for the Cyclones, I probably get grilled."

— Shakespeare

The Play's the Thing

By Ed Shakespeare

Midseason report card

The Cyclones reached the halfway mark in their 76-game season with the completion of their game on July 26, and they ended their first half with a record of 18-20 and in last place in the McNamara Division, trailing the first place Staten Island Yankees by six games.

The Brooks have some top-ranked talent, but injuries and a few players playing below their potential have kept the club struggling.

Here are this year's annual mid-year grades. All stats are for the first half.

• **Ike Davis, first base:** The 2008 Collegiate Baseball All-American from Arizona State was a Mets first-round draft pick (18th overall). The 6-foot-

4, 215-pound power hitter smashed 16 home runs this year in college and had 76 RBIs. For the Cyclones, he had at least one hit in each of his first 15 games, then

tailed off, and is now hitting .237 with no homers and only 9 RBIs. He's been making the adjustment to using a wood bat and

he's been shifting his weight too much to his front foot, diminishing his power. At first base, he's fielded smoothly, making no errors. Grade: **C-**

• **Josh Satin, second base:** Satin hit .379 at Cal Berkeley this season with 18 home runs. But as a Cyclone, Satin has lost his timing and was hitless in his first 15 at-bats. Since then, he's gone 20-for-66 to work his average up to .247. He's also smooth in the field. Grade: **C+**

• **Reese Havesen, shortstop:** Another first-round draft pick this year (22nd overall), Havesen never took the field as a shortstop in the first half, sticking to designated hitter while nursing an injured elbow. He hit .261 with three homers in 69 at-bats, but just when he was ready to begin playing shortstop, he injured his groin. Grade: **C+**

• **Zach Lutz, third base:** Lutz played only one game for the Cyclones last year, breaking his right foot on Opening Day. This season, he's been plagued by injuries to his right quad and his right lower back. When he's played he's been superb, hitting .333 with three homers. He's currently rehabbing his injuries at the Mets' complex at Port St. Lucie. Grade: **B**

• **Eric Campbell, third base:** Campbell's been playing third in Lutz's absence, and he's hit .303. Grade: **A-**

• **Sean Ratliff, left field:** Ratliff has power potential, but has hit only one and has batted just .193. He has an unusual stance in which he holds the bat straight up and down until just before the pitch — and, as a result, is sometimes late getting the bat back into place. He's struck out 29 times in 83 at-bats. Grade: **D**

• **Kirk Nieuwenhuis, center field:** He's played a solid center field, and has hit .262 with a homer and 10 RBIs. Grade: **C+**

• **John Servidio, right field:** Plays all out all the time and has a good arm. "He's been working hard at going up the middle," said manager Edgar Alonzo. The effort is paying off as he's been cracking some hard line drives. His average is .269 with two homers. Grade: **B-**

• **Jordan Abruzzo, catcher:** He has a strong and accurate arm, and has been having potential base stealers. "He really has been handling our pitchers well," added Alonzo. The switch-hitter batted .303 in the first half with a pair of homers in 52 at-bats. Grade: **A**

Next week: The pitching staff.

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare takes a page from his ancient ancestor and offers up some verse in iambic pentameter. In this edition, join the Bard of Brooklyn Baseball as he revisits the Cyclones' mood before their crucial 5-2 win on Monday night in Staten Island. It's called, "Keeping Hope Ajar."

The Brooklyn season nears the tipping point. As Clones face Yanks, a series played in four.

Unless the Boys of Edgar rock the joint,

Those pinstriped Statens get to close the door.

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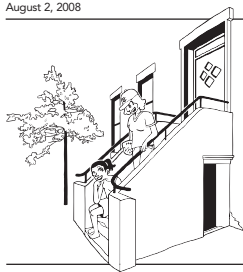
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THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

GREENPOINT

Club: Don't blame us, blame our customers

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Greenpoint residents are demanding action against a Banker Street disco, but club reps say the venue isn't at fault — its patrons are.

The hip Studio B is coming under fire from neighbors who say that the club — which is working to secure a cabaret license that would permit dancing — is a noisy messy nuisance.

Neighbors rallied against the club at a July 8 Community Board 1 meeting.

"There is public urination, litter and trash, and loud and obnoxious behavior in the middle of the night," said Glen Radecki, a paralegal who lives one block away from Studio B. "Beyond the trash and the broken bottles, there are people leaving the club at 2 a.m., 3 a.m. and 4 a.m., screaming, yelling and talking on their cellphones. It creates lots of disturbance in the neighborhood."

Ken Fisher — Studio B's lawyer and a well-connected former Councilman — said that fingers should be pointed at the clubgoers, not the club.

"We're very conscious of the fact that not everybody is respectful of the neighbors when they come to and from the club, but that's not necessarily within the club's responsibility to control," Fisher said.

He added that the club has taken measures to keep its patrons quiet, such as hiring three full-time security guards to regulate the crowd outside the venue, which is between Calyer Street and Meserole Avenue.



Studio B, a Banker Street nightclub, is seeking a cabaret license. Neighbors oppose it.

Fisher also pointed out that the soon-to-be completed roof deck might limit the number of people smoking — and making a ruckus — in front of the club.

But at the recent community board meeting, irate neighbors attacked the roof deck — where construction began without proper permits. Department of Buildings records show:

"I don't have a problem with there being a nightclub there. I just want to be able to sit in my garden and have a beer with friends and not have to hear every noise from in there," said Susan Kowan, who lives behind the club and alleges that events have already been held on the roof deck without city certification. "They need to be more respectful of the fact that they have neighbors on three sides."

Fisher would not comment on whether the roof deck was built without permits.

The application for a cabaret license was set to go before Community Board 1 on July 31. Check BrooklynPaper.com for an update.

CARROLL GARDENS

Stein: I was too nice

Builder was burned by neighbors

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Add this to the "no good deed goes unpunished" category: A developer of a controversial condo project says his building is stalled because he was so responsive to neighborhood complaints that the city had time to implement the very zoning changes that made his previously legal project suddenly illegal.

Developer Billy Stein had been applauded by Carroll Gardens residents and elected officials for meeting with neighbors when they were upset about the original size and appearance of his proposed seven-story apartment building at the corner of Second Place and Smith Street.

But now they're reveling in stifling his project.

This is a great step in our neighborhood's commitment to maintain its integrity and unique character," the Carroll Gardens Coalition for Responsible Development wrote in an e-mail after the City Council blocked Stein by limiting building heights and densities on 15 blocks in the mostly low-rise neighborhood.

The irony is that if Stein had run roughshod over community concerns, he could have laid enough of his foundation to be grandfathered in under the old zoning rules.

Not that he's bitter, of course.

"Maintaining communications with the community about the design was the right thing to do," Stein said in an e-mail. "We have a far better project, both for the neighborhood and for our future residents, as a result."

Amid neighborhood complaints last June, Stein scrapped his original metal-clad design by bad boy architect Robert Scarnano.

He then hired a new draftsman and came back months later with a more contextual brick design — though, at seven stories, it was still too tall for some tastes.

New Stein's building, which he calls Oliver House, is stopped in



Billy Stein's "Oliver House" on Second Place near Smith Street has been halted because of a zoning change.

its tracks because the city fast-tracked the zoning change that was implemented last week.

Stein had asked the city to exempt his project from the rezoning to no avail, but residents are not very sympathetic.

"It wasn't any secret that this thing [rezoning] was happening," said Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association member Gary Reilly, referring to the grassroots campaign that coalesced a year ago to close a zoning loophole that had classified some Carroll Gardens streets as "wide."

— and therefore suitable for taller buildings.

"I certainly appreciate the developer working with the neighborhood. He did a really good job re-imagining the facade of the building, but at the end of the day, we'd like to see something keeping in scale with the rest of the neighborhood," Reilly said.

In the wake of the new regulations, the Department of Buildings halted work at a handful of other Carroll Gardens construction sites, though none were as much of a flashpoint as Stein's project.

Stein will seek a variance from the Board of Standards and Appeals to allow him to complete his 70-foot edifice.



With work halted on Stein's building, the subway entrance at Second Place may look like this for a while.

DOWNTOWN

84th Pct C0 gets promotion



Alan Abel, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct in Brooklyn Heights and Downtown, was promoted to deputy inspector last week.

By Michael Lipkin
The Brooklyn Paper

Crime rates have plummeted so dramatically in the 84th Precinct that its Brooklyn-born commanding officer just got promoted. Capt. Alan Abel, who took over the Gold Street stationhouse last year, was christened a deputy inspector last week by NYPD top cop Ray Kelly.

"Crime is at its lowest ever," Kelly said, "which is due, in part, to the strong leadership of captains in local precincts."

"Brooklyn has experienced a renaissance and I'm just happy to have been a part of it," said Abel, whose wife and son joined him at the ceremony last Friday at One Police Plaza in Manhattan.

Whatever role Abel has played in that renaissance, crime is down 15 percent in his precinct, which covers Downtown, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill and DUMBO, this year, as compared with around three percent citywide.

Kelly said the 84th Precinct is now the second safest in the city.

Abel has been working in the borough for years, serving as second-in-command for the Brooklyn North patrol bureau before being picked by Kelly to lead the 8-4.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

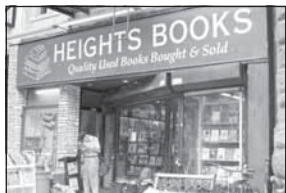
Bookstore seeks return after it loses its space

By Michael Lipkin
The Brooklyn Paper

Heights Books, says it hopes to reopen in a new Heights location after it is forced to move from its Montague Street home.

Local book-lovers feared for the worst when the building was listed for \$4.5 million by the Massey Knakal real-estate giant this week, but co-owner Tracy Walsch said the store aims to stay close to home.

"We don't own the building, so this wasn't our decision," she told The Brooklyn Paper. "But we have no plans to close. We'll



The building housing Heights Books on Montague Street is being sold — but owners say the store will remain open in the neighborhood.

move before we close."

The buildings owners could not be reached for comment.

Heights Books has flirted with closing before. After the store's satellite shop on Seventh Avenue, between First and Second streets, in Park Slope closed in February, the stores were consolidated at the Montague location.

Walsch said Heights Books has been shopping around for a new location, but does not have anything firm yet.

She said the store would prefer to remain in the Heights, but things might not work out that way.

"We're victims to the market," she said. "But we'll do what we have to to stay in business."

Several independent bookstores, including Park Slope Books and Seventh Avenue Books in Park Slope, have shuttered in recent months as more and more readers do their browsing (and buying) online.

Despite Walsch's belief that the store will stay open, some frequent shoppers are skeptical.

"I'm sure it's going to close," said Robert Ward, 40-year resident of the bookstore's building. "Those are things you've got to expect with rents now."

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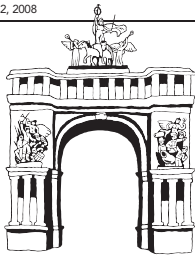
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THE SLOPE

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK
WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON



The original branch of the Tea Lounge — at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 10th Street — closed last Friday, disappointing caffeine-craving Park Slopers.

Tea Lounge is closed!

Writers, idlers depressed and in need of coffee

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

For South Slope coffee drinkers, the glass isn't half empty — it's totally gone.

The original branch of the legendary coffee house, the Tea Lounge, closed on July 25 — six days before the java hut was scheduled to shutter due to a rent dispute with its landlord.

Owner Greg Wolf told The Brooklyn Paper in May that he opted to close the Seventh Avenue location of his three-lounge chain when his landlord doubled the rent.

But the early closing hit caffeine-craving Slopers hard last Friday morning.

"It was an important place for the neighborhood," said Patricia Plamette, a regular. "They were such nice people."

The popular spot, known for its dingy couches and sassy baristas, drew a wide swath of South Slope mommies, daddies, post collegiates, and laptop-toting writers alike.

Now the shop's dedicated clientele are looking for new places to find their fix.

"It's just sad," said a woman who gave her name as Caroline. As she spoke on Friday, she sipped a coffee purchased at a nearby bodega while sitting on one of the outdoor benches that were still outside the Tea Lounge. Before the Friday closure, she said she bought a Tea Lounge coffee most days on her way to work.

"I guess I'll just have to get my coffee in the city now," she said.

Other Tea Loungers have already turned to Naidre's, a café on Seventh Avenue between 11th and 12th streets, a barista at the eatery said.

The other two Tea Lounges — one on Union Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, and the other on Court Street near Kane Street in Carroll Gardens — will remain open.

Wolf's landlord, Georgina Tufano, has not returned calls.

Pos: Long wait for park fix

By Abigail Kramer

for The Brooklyn Paper

Twenty angry parents let two City Councilmembers have it on Tuesday afternoon, accusing the lawmakers of breaking their promise to renovate an outdated, unattractive and unsafe Windsor Terrace playground.

Last year, Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) and Sara Gonzalez (D-Sunset Park) said they supported the renovation of Slope Park, a schoolyard and playground at 18th Street and Sixth Avenue.

But nearly 12 months later, the playground is as rundown as ever, and there's no renovation in sight.

"They said they'd make it a priority for the next city budget," said Julie Milburn, who brings her 2-year-old grandson to the playground almost every day. "We were trusting that they'd follow through."

A complete renovation would cost \$1.7 million. Gonzalez said she had managed to secure one-third of the funding and that both she and DeBlasio were committed to seeking the rest of the money next year.

"This is a really tricky budget year," said DeBlasio, who is running for borough president. "You bring in your wish list and try to bargain for the best for your community, but you don't always get it."

Neighborhood parents worry that the promises might evaporate in the face of a continued financial crunch.

"We've already been waiting for too long," says Miguel Agüero, one of the main organizers of the renovation effort. "Our children need a better, safer place to play."

Two of the playground's three climbing structures were built more than 20 years ago, and they fall far short of current safety rec-



More than a dozen parents confronted Councilmembers Sara Gonzalez and Bill DeBlasio on Tuesday about long-overdue repairs to Slope Park in Windsor Terrace. Here, DeBlasio faced down his critics after Gonzalez left.

ommendations. One platform is over seven feet high, with no safe way down for younger kids — an apparent violation of Consumer Product Safety Commission height recommendations. Another structure has safety bars spaced so widely that small children can — and often do — walk right through them. Agüero said that he sees unnecessary accidents at the playground on a regular basis.

Over the past two years, neighborhood residents have taken many of the playground's

problems into their own hands, holding "do-it-yourself" improvement parties to plant flowers, hammer down rubber matting and repair equipment.

But parents say they've come to the limit of what they can do on their own.

"We need to hold the city accountable for the safety of the children who play here," said Gayle Foreman, who's been bringing her daughter to Slope Park for three years. "We've learned that we can't let up until the bulldozers are in the park."

A&S Pork store gets smoked

By Sarah Portlock

The Brooklyn Paper

You can say this pork is well-done.

The last butcher in Park Slope, A&S Pork Store, will close in the next three months in what appears to be a classic New York landlord-tenant dispute — except in this case, neither side will actually divulge just what is happening.

"[Founder] Anthony Scicchitano had an empire and his daughters killed it," current owner Salvatore Bonello said recently of the man he calls his grandfather, who died in 2006.

"They buried him and now they buried the empire!"

Scicchitano's daughter owns the building now, and leased the space to Bonello. But this year, Bonello said, the rent became too



This beloved pork store on Fifth Avenue will close in a bit — "family" squabble.

high and landlord Rita Sacchi gave him until Oct. 1 to vacate.

Sacchi refused to comment. Although Bonello wants to keep the store open elsewhere

— preferably in Park Slope — at \$10,000 to \$12,000, neighborhood rents are too high.

"There's no way we could pay 10 or 12 grand — we have our business, but we don't have lines out the door," he said.

Scicchitano opened the original legendary butcher and gourmet shop on Fifth Avenue, near First Street, in 1948, and later expanded with 26 franchises in Staten Island, Long Island, and New Jersey.

But a source familiar with the situation said Scicchitano's A&S store closed before he died in 2006. Bonello, who worked for a pork store outpost in Bay Ridge for two decades, opened his own shop on Fifth Avenue five years ago and was allowed to

keep the original sign posted.

The store is a "real" pork store, meaning its prime meat arrives ready for the butcher to make cuts according to customer de-

mands, rather than the meat arriving pre-cut in boxes.

Word that the store will soon close created a lot of grumbling from — and not only in the stomachs of — area foodies.

A chef, Michael Adasak, grew up in the neighborhood and said he comes to A&S specifically for the fresh mozzarella.

"When I went to summer camp, I made my parents bring me some fresh mozzarella," Adasak said. "Not only is there not another Italian butcher in the neighborhood, there's not really another butcher period."

Hillary Miller, a longtime Park Sloper, said the news just confirms the inevitable: "I always feared this place was going to close. It's hard to find a good meat store, and they're such nice guys."

Even the fire department has been complaining — the city's bravest come in daily for lunch, Bonello said.

The end of A&S marks the second butcher shop to close in Park Slope in as many months — in June, Great Western Fine Foods, which was on Fifth Avenue between Seventh and Eighth streets, closed.

— with Jessica Firger

Can you help find Mushkah?

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Lord knows, we're a little reluctant to start doing "Lost pet" stories, lest everyone from Greenpoint to Bensonhurst start sending us "Missing" posters, but how could we turn a blind eye to Mushkah?

This lovable gray desert lynx

has been missing since last Wednesday from her home on the corner of Seventh Avenue and 17th Street, said her owners Bob Brockmann and Maya Solovey, who posted fliers all over the neighborhood.

Brockmann and Solovey are offering a reward for helping to find Mushkah, who may be in search of love.

"She's in heat, so we believe she escaped to try to find a mate," Solovey said.

Be on the lookout for a slender gray, eight-month-old cat with black stripes, a whitish face, black nose, yellow eyes and a white belly who may or may not be walking with a new boyfriend. If you see her, call Solovey at (917) 364-7755.

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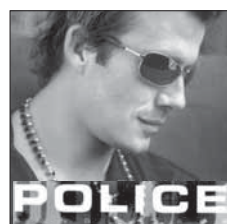
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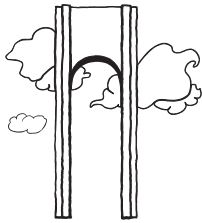
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THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST DYKER HEIGHTS BATH BEACH

GOP pol has a lot of promises



Former Assemblyman Robert Straniero, who is now running to succeed Rep. Vito Fossella, brought his campaign to Bensonhurst this week. The longtime lawmaker was drummed out of the GOP a few years ago and is hoping for a comeback.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

In an early swing at an opponent in the race to succeed scandal-ridden Rep. Vito Fossella, former Republican Assemblyman Robert Straniero assailed Councilman Mike McMahon as a tax-and-spend Democrat, one of the oldest curses in an old political book.

"Mike McMahon will vote for programs that the people of Bensonhurst, Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights don't want," Straniero told members of the Fiorello LaGuardia Republican Club at a pizza luncheon on Tuesday afternoon. Straniero, who currently lives in Manhattan, served Staten Island in Albany for 12 terms until losing a 2004 primary, and only got into the race to replace Fossella after the GOP's hand-picked candidate, Frank Poversi, died abruptly in June.

On Tuesday, Straniero showed that he had fully joined the campaign, blasting McMahon, who represents Staten Island's North Shore, for supporting congestion pricing — Mayor Bloomberg's plan to charge drivers for entering parts of Manhattan — and his vote to increase property taxes in 2007.

McMahon stood by his votes, saying that congestion pricing was a win-win for Staten Island because his constituents already pay whenever they drive off the island, and they would enjoy less traffic if congestion pricing worked as promised.

And on the property tax vote, he said the hike came during a dire financial period following the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

He added that it's easy for Straniero to be critical because he didn't have to cast a ballot on those controversial issues.

"As a Manhattan resident, it's a bit far fetched for Bob Straniero to claim that he knows what Brooklyn or Staten Island residents want," said Anthony Hegroche, a McMahon spokesman. "It's shameful, but not particularly surprising, that Straniero hasn't learned his lesson after voters threw him out of office four years ago. Instead

of continuing his unique brand of divisive, negative politics, he should try to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign."

Aside from going on the offensive against McMahon, Straniero, a divisive figure among Republicans, dusted off another tactic straight out of the election playbook: the no new taxes pledge.

"I will never raise taxes on my constituents," he said, repeating that near the next day in Washington.

He also pledged to not take the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights portion of the mostly Staten Island district for granted, pledging that any day he is on Staten Island, he will also spend part of the same day in Brooklyn.

Straniero's so-called "Verzano Promise" paid dividends with some voters at Il Colosseo pizzeria on 18th Avenue. "I vote for my pocket," said Joe Lebowitz, explaining why he would vote for Straniero.

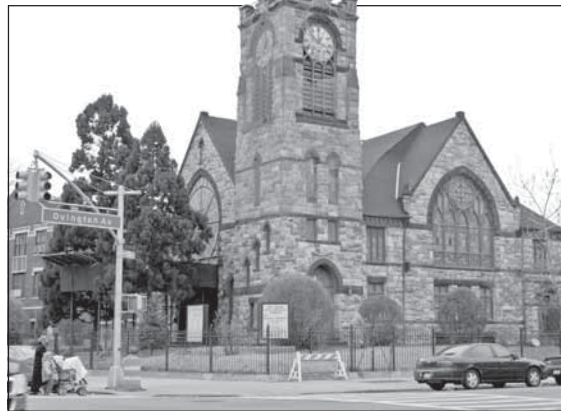
Outside of Staten Island, Straniero is relatively unknown, and GOP leaders on his former turf are hostile to his candidacy. The party fractured during Straniero's losing 2001 campaign for borough president and he has overregained the support of all the local pols.

"They couldn't have made a worse mistake," said former borough president Guy Molinari, still an island power broker, after Straniero was selected to replace Powers on the ballot. "There's no way I can support him."

To win the nomination, Straniero will have to beat Jamsheed Wyne, a doctor and finance chairman of the Staten Island GOP.

The Democrats are also over, though not nearly as badly. Steve Harrison, a Bay Ridge lawyer, is vying with McMahon. Harrison ran against Fossella in 2006, getting 43 percent of the vote — but when Fossella was arrested for drunk driving on May 1 and later admitted to using a child with a woman not his wife, McMahon jumped into the race.

He subsequently earned an endorsement from the national Democratic party and has been raising money extremely well.



The Department of Buildings has shot down preliminary plans for the "Green Church" site.

'Green Church' sent back to drawing board

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The city shot down preliminary plans for a residential building at the site of Fourth Avenue's soon-to-be-demolished "Green Church" — but the rejection didn't deter church officials and builders from their controversial plan to level the 109-year-old house of worship to construct condos and a smaller church.

Last week, the Department of Buildings disapproved plans that included a seven-story, 72-unit residential building, an 8,106-square-foot church, and a 42-car parking lot that would replace the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church at the corner of Ovington Avenue.

But developer Abe Betesh said the disapproval is more about revision than rejection.

"They are reviewing it," Betesh said.

"When you submit a set of plans and they disapprove it, they give you certain comments or ask you further questions — it means they are working on it."

It is not immediately clear why the city shot down the controversial plans for the "Green Church" site, but a Buildings Department official told The Brooklyn Paper that plans are typically disapproved if they don't comply with building or zoning regulations, or if they are incomplete.

Despite the disapproval, the planned demolition and development will continue, Pastor Robert Emerick said.

Emerick has come under fire from preservationists who want to save the crumbling church building, but the reverend says that his dwindling congregation simply cannot afford to maintain the costly building, which he has deemed their "battleground."

Tearing down the verdant church to make room for a residential development

would raise money for the construction of a smaller, more modern church, Emerick said.

Until that church is built, "Green Church" congregants are worshipping at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Fourth Avenue between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway.

But preservationists — including Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) — are hoping that the city's disapproval might delay the demolition.

Gentile has been in negotiations with other developers who might be interested in purchasing the plot and saving the emerald-hued church, Gentile spokesman John Buckholz said.

"He is pleased with this recent development," Buckholz said. "The rejection of the plans just buys him some more time to continue the conversations he has been having."

Ridge bank robbery is a real drag



The Sovereign Bank on Fifth Avenue and 75th Street was robbed on Monday.

By Jessica Finger
For The Brooklyn Paper

What a drag!

The Sovereign Bank on Fifth Avenue was robbed (again) on July 28 — and this time, the culprit was a transvestite!

Cops say that the branch at 75th Street suffered its fourth robbery of the year, but what was different this time was the crook's choice of attire: he not only donned women's clothing and a wig, but also wore fake breasts.

Those prosthetics were, apparently, his only weapons.

According to police, the would-be "Victor-Victoria" star entered the bank at around 3:30 pm and approached the teller with a note demanding cash.

The teller handed over an undisclosed amount — cops say it was under \$1,000 — and the she-robbler left.

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This thief had a lookout - a pre-teen!

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A supermarket clerk got the fright of his life when a thug entered the Eighth Avenue grocery and threatened to kill him unless he opened the register on July 26 — and all the while, the thief's pre-teen kid was watching the store!

The clerk told cops that all was quiet at the market, which is at 12th Street, at around 8:10 pm, when the 5-foot-6, 114-pound woman entered and screamed, "Open the register or I will f—ing kill you!"

The clerk complied and the lady thief took \$200 and fled — accompanied by the pint-sized partner, aged 10 to 12, cops said.

Cops are looking for the thief, who has a long black pony tail.

Wiggling out

A bewigged thief got away with \$1,300 from a Fifth Avenue bank on July 21.

Officials from the branch, which is at the corner of 11th Street, told police that the man approached the teller at around 2:45 pm and handed over a note demanding the money — and "no talk/fair bills."

The teller handed over two \$100 bills, 20 \$20 bills and 14 \$50 bills.

Do the math: That was quite a haul.

Camera burg

A thief broke into a 15th Street apartment on July 22 and stole camera equipment, cops said.

The tenant, 33, told cops that she was not in the unit, which is between Second and Third avenues, from 9:15 am until 10 pm, when she came home to discover that her video camera and still camera were gone.

Not hungry

A thief smashed his way into a Fifth Avenue restaurant overnight on July 20, but took only cash and an iPod.

Despite a fully stocked bar and

kitchen at the restaurant, which is not only at the corner of Prospect Park, but a great place for Mid-Eastern-influenced dishes, the thief took \$200 and the digital music device.

Unchained

A thief stole the bracelets, rings and necklace right off of a woman at the Christian Science Reading Room on July 24, cops said.

The victim, 59, told police that she was walking in the Reading Room on July 24 and asked for books to read.

When the victim looked him in the reading room, he pushed her, snatching her jewelry, yelling, "Keep quiet! Keep quiet!"

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

Granny bandit

A perp snatched a Brooklyn Heights granny's purse from her walker on July 27 as she neared her front door.

The victim, who lives on Pier-point Street between Hicks and Henry streets, was headed inside at around 3:20 pm. But just as she opened the front door, a man approached her and asked, "When are you going to rent the apartment?" When she paused, the man snatched her purse, which was hanging from her walker's handlebars, and fled.

Cops recovered the purse with all of its contents, minus \$100, at the intersection of Remsen and Clinton streets.

Quiet as a mouse

A perp broke into an unsuspecting Brooklyn Heights man's apartment on July 26 in the middle of the night, but the resident didn't hear a thing.

The victim told cops that when he woke up the next morning, a front window to the apartment, which is on Montague Street near Henry Street, was open and his wallet and laptop were missing.

— **Sam Portlock**

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at www.BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Time to steal

Two thugs beat up a young couple walking in DUMBO around midnight on July 20.

The perps approached the victims, who were at the northeast corner of Plymouth and Main streets, and asked, "Do you have the time?" cops said.

At the same moment, the second perp grabbed one victim's head and knocked him to the ground. The first perp then grabbed the woman's purse and cellphone and the assaulted victim handed over his cellphone.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

On the house

Burglars equipped with a key to an Atlantic Avenue nightclub's front door walked in empty-handed on the afternoon of July 25 and walked out laden with booze.

The culprits stopped at a bar between 1:30 and 10 pm from the lounge between Waverly and Washington avenues.

Anyone with a hangover is considered a suspect.

Yo — bang!

A shooting broke the twilight calm on Lefferts Place on July 24.

An armed man, accompanied by two cronies and saying nothing more than "Yo!" to his target, blasted a 20-year-old man hanging out on a friend's stoop inside. But he ended up shooting and Clasen at around 8 pm, cops said.

The shooter hit the victim twice, once in the arm and once in the abdomen. Emergency workers removed him to Kings County Hospital, where his condition was not released.

Batter up

A mixed pack of women and men attacked and nudged a woman on Lafayette Avenue on July 21.

One woman intimidated the 25-year-old victim by brandishing a baseball bat, while her companions — one woman and one man — grabbed the victim's neck and wrenched away her Gucci bag at 12:20 pm at the corner of St. James Place.

Night stalker

A nocturnal burglar slipped in and out of a Washington Park apartment while the resident peacefully slept in another room.

The 38-year-old woman told police that she had left her apartment unlocked when she went to bed at 12:30 am, but when she woke up at 7:45 am, her laptop, cellphone and \$40 were gone from the unit, which is between Wiloughby and DeKalb avenues.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

Correction

A chart in a recent edition showing how much money various candidates for City Council had raised so far for their 2009 campaign ("It's a land rush," July 19) inaccurately reported that Ken Baer, a candidate for the seat currently occupied by David Vasek, had not raised a dime. In fact, Baer has raised \$12,093 on 138 donations. The oversight was due to the fact that the Campaign Finance Board did not update its filing database to reflect Baer's contributions until after we went to press.

Cash dispenser

A burglar ransacked a popular Hall Street diner overnight on July 25.

The thief busted into the gray spoon between Wiloughby and DeKalb avenues, and went right for the goldmine: the ATM in the diner's vestibule. He busted it open, taking an unknown amount of money, and then popped open the store's register for another \$500.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

Subway mug

Two men beat and robbed a 33-year-old woman as he exited a Fourth Avenue subway station on July 27.

The victim was headed up to the street at the Bay Ridge Avenue station at around 2:50 am when the thugs approached and began kicking and punching him.

When the victim swiped her card, the thugs who had entered the station pounced, knocking her on both sides of the face and punching her to the ground.

perp hit the victim, who lives between 7th and 8th streets, and stole his black bag, which contained the cash.

Readers are reminded that carrying such large amounts of cash is not a good idea.

Beat, nicks

It was a week of beatings in Bensonhurst. Here's a roundup.

A teen trying to stick up for his friend got beaten with sticks by an unruly perp on 66th Street and 18th Avenue at around 1:20 am on July 26, cops said. The victim told police that the perp had started a fight with his friend so he jumped in to help, causing both victims some cracked ribs.

A rowdy perp hit a man with a baseball bat on 86th Street at around 4 am on July 25, chipping the victim's teeth. The bottle-breaker fled the bar, which is between Bay 58th Street and 24th Avenue, slashing the victim's tires along the way.

A group of men reacted violently to her parking ticket, hitting the traffic cop who gave it on July 24 — then slashed him around 2:30 pm on July 22. The perp hopped into her allegedly illegally parked car, which was between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway, and fled.

It should be noted that attacks on parking agents are now felonies.

Assault

Four vicious thugs assaulted a man on Kings Highway early on July 21.

The victim said he was walking home and was near West 58th Street at around 4 am when the quartet of would-be killers surrounded him and, without warning, stabbed him in the chest.

The man escaped, but waited until the next day to go to a hospital because he didn't think the stab "was a big deal," according to cops.

Hours earlier, two knife-wielding thugs stabbed another man on Bath Avenue at around 11:30 am. That victim told cops that he was near the corner at around 1:30 am when the thieves struck.

In this case, the man lost his shoe.

Tire'd

A perp left a car owner high and dry when he stole the victim's tires out from under his Cadillac on July 23.

The victim told cops that he left the car overnight on 18th Avenue near Crosey Avenue, but

— **Ben Muessig**

60TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Bridge attack

A gun-toting thug tried to mug a 28-year-old woman as she walked across the Williamsburg Bridge on July 24, but the courageous victim wrestled the firearm away.

The armed villain confronted his victim at around 4:55 pm, demanding money.

"Pull it out," the thug ordered, raising his .45 caliber handgun.

But the victim grabbed at the gun, knowing the firearm — and the victim's \$500 watch — to the ground.

The crook grabbed the watch and fled, leaving the gun behind. A passerby found the firearm and brought it to police.

— **Ben Muessig**

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Bridge attack

A gun-toting thug tried to mug a 28-year-old woman as she walked across the Williamsburg Bridge on July 24, but the courageous victim wrestled the firearm away.

The armed villain confronted his victim at around 4:55 pm, demanding money.

"Pull it out," the thug ordered, raising his .45 caliber handgun.

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— **Ben Muessig**

94TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Greenpoint

Give and take

Thieves used a time-honored approach to crime: asking four men for money and then getting it.

One of the thugs approached the quartet of victims near the corner of Manhattan Avenue and Green Street at around 5 pm and said, "Give up all your money."

They took \$250.

Two days later, a similar approach failed on Monitor Street between Richardson and Herbert streets at around 11:35 pm, cops said.

— **Allison Bosworth**

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

Bodega of terror

A counterattack at an Underhill Avenue bodega got the fright of his life when an enraged man screamed, "I'm going to kill you!" on July 24 — then slashed him with a knife.

The horrifying threat stemmed from a dispute a day earlier, when the two men argued at the store, which is between Bergen Street and St. Marks Place, at about 10 pm.

The next day at around noon, the man returned to the store, walked up to the counter and lifted up his shirt to reveal the black automatic pistol.

"I'm going to kill you," he said before ransacking the store and cutting the clerk with the knife.

The thug did take anything, but ran off, leaving a red bike behind.

Ready-to-steal

A crook broke into a fashion boutique on Vanderbilt Avenue on July 22, skipped the couture, and went straight for the cash.

The bandit entered the store, which is between Bergen and Dean Streets, at around 10 pm through a small opening in a security gate. He then removed \$300 from the two registers, leaving both machines unusable.

No clothing was stolen, cops said.

— **Jessica Firger**

90TH PRECINCT

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— **Ben Muessig**

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Readers are reminded that carrying such large amounts of cash is not a good idea.

A teen trying to stick up for his friend got beaten with sticks by an unruly perp on 66th Street and 18th Avenue at around 1:20 am on July 26, cops said. The victim told police that the perp had started a fight with his friend so he jumped in to help, causing both victims some cracked ribs.

A rowdy perp hit a man with a baseball bat on 86th Street at around 4 am on July 25, chipping the victim's teeth. The bottle-breaker fled the bar, which is between Bay 58th Street and 24th Avenue, slashing the victim's tires along the way.

A group of men reacted violently to her parking ticket, hitting the traffic cop who gave it on July 24 — then slashed him around 2:30 pm on July 22. The perp hopped into her allegedly illegally parked car, which was between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway, and fled.

It should be noted that attacks on parking agents are now felonies.

Four vicious thugs assaulted a man on Kings Highway early on July 21.

The victim said he was walking home and was near West 58th Street at around 4 am when the quartet of would-be killers surrounded him and, without warning, stabbed him in the chest.

The man escaped, but waited until the next day to go to a hospital because he didn't think the stab "was a big deal," according to cops.

Hours earlier, two knife-wielding thugs stabbed another man on Bath Avenue at around 11:30 am. That victim told cops that he was near the corner at around 1:30 am when the thieves struck.

In this case, the man lost his shoe.

A perp left a car owner high and dry when he stole the victim's tires out from under his Cadillac on July 23.

The victim told cops that he left the car overnight on 18th Avenue near Crosey Avenue, but

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Energy Tips 52, 56 and 58

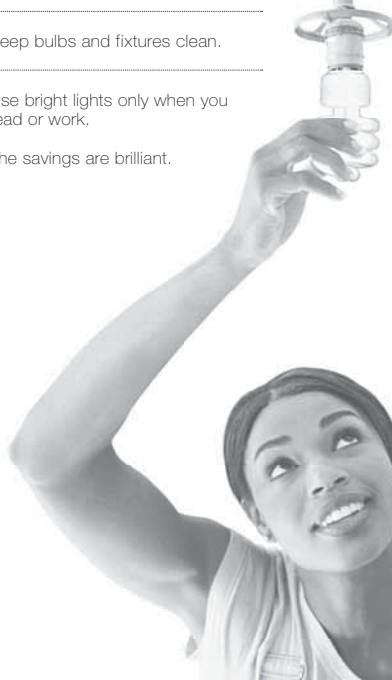
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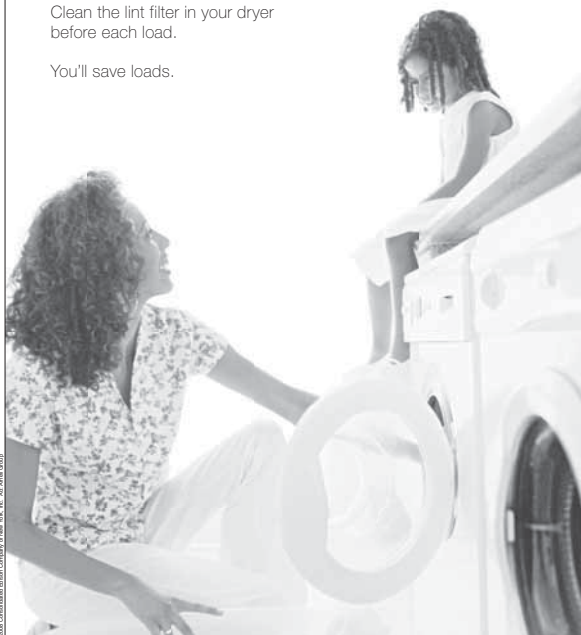
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OUR OPINION

The MTA's u-fare-ness

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority performed disastrously this week after Metrolink vending machines malfunctioned during rush hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

For large portions of the day, people without cash could not buy or add value to their fare cards, the result of a computer glitch that created long lines of frustrated strap-hangers. Many riders lost money in the crisis — and it's unclear if they'll get it back.

Of course, there was a very easy solution to that problem: Open the gates and let everyone in for free until the glitch is corrected.

True, this isn't a long-term solution to a system-wide computer problem — but it is a common-sense approach for getting MTA customers to work on time.

Funny how common sense eluded the MTA this week.

Actually, it's not that funny; this is an agency that does not inspire confidence in any way. For example:

• Transit planners have no clue about the actual costs of renovation and maintenance work

— and their failure to accurately project those costs renders moot any kind of public debate about what work should and should not be done. In Brooklyn, more than a dozen stations that were put on the fast track for rehabilitation only last year were jarringly removed from that list just a few months later as the agency cited unanticipated cost overruns.

Now the agency says it needs a fare hike next year and another one in 2010. Why stop at two fare increases in consecutive years? How about three? Six? Ten? Clearly these numbers get plucked from thin air, so how can the public know what the MTA's true costs are?

The agency is woefully unskilled at quickly figuring out usage patterns so that neighborhoods that need more service get it, while neighborhoods that don't need as high a level of service see their service cut back. For years, for example, several MTA bus lines terminated near the Fulton Ferry Landing in DUMBO even though very few commuters actually rode the busses to the end. Eventually, the busses were curtailed. But now that DUMBO is a booming office,

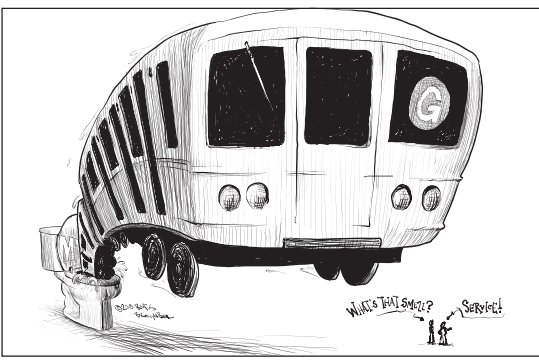
residential and tourist neighborhood only one bus line — one of the least-frequent at that — comes down to a waterfront that, on top of everything else, is the site of an entrance to the future Brooklyn Bridge Park, where activities and events are already taking place. Local officials are desperate for more transit service to the neighborhood, but it is not forthcoming.

The same thing is true for Red Hook. Bus and transit service is so bad that many commuters ride the free IKEA shuttle! A long-promised Red Hook-to-Manhattan bus was, alas, eliminated in the last round of MTA cuts.

The MTA sells its assets on the cheap to hand-picked developers and cronies of its well-connected board members rather than selling them on the open market. Atlantic Yards, of course, is the most egregious example of this, with the MTA selling the air rights over its Vanderbilt Rail Yards to Bruce Ratner for \$100 million less than its appraised value.

Given this level of incompetence, this week's failure is not surprising at all.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

A problem with those who don't want to 'Flea'

To the editor,

As a Brooklyn Flea supporter and sometime seller, I attended the July 24 meeting at Queen of All Saints to hear the church goers' concerns about the new Brooklyn Flea. "Flea market meeting gets heated," online July 25. Instead, I walked out deeply insulted by anti-Semitic comments made by the parishioners.

At first, it seemed their main concerns were about the increased traffic and noise during their previously quiet and tranquil holy day, Sunday. They complained about lack of parking, bathroom requests, and noise, among other grievances.

I was shocked when Kathleen Walsh, a parishioner at Queen of All Saints and "a resident of the neighborhood since 1942," got up

and rhetorically asked, "Would such an entity be allowed across from a synagogue?"

Her comment reeked of classic historic Jew-hating. This same type of anti-Semitic rhetoric was prevalent in pre-Nazi Germany, where the Jews were portrayed as having too much power. Being a "Jewish peddler" myself, and a relative of Holocaust survivors who lost most of his family during the war, I was more than hurt by Ms. Walsh's beliefs and those expressed by other church supporters in attendance. Taken in direct relation to the Flea market, her statement seemed to me to be identical to Hitler's charges that Jewish peddlers have too much money and influence.

The congregation even blamed the Flea for their church's own dwindling attendance. (Reality check: the Flea has only been open for three months, and the Catholic Church has been slowly losing members since the 1960s.) Imagine the attendees of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue complaining about the traffic, shoppers, sirens, trucks, and hordes of tourists out front on Sundays? And when is street parking guaranteed for anyone in New York City? Why can't parishioners take the subway like the 7,000 or so attendees at the Flea do? Get real.

What about "love thy neighbor"? Instead of trying to ban the Flea the parishioners should be instead thinking, "How can we benefit from this new exciting enterprise

right across the street?" One speaker, Howard Pitsch, made the most sense of all when he suggested that instead of being adversarial, the church should embrace the Flea and open its doors to the newcomers. Perhaps even some of the new visitors would stay and rejuvenate the parish.

In towns and cities across the world, the houses of worship are the centerpiece of the community — and open-air markets often gather there every weekend, just like on Lafayette Avenue.

The Flea haters even brought up the tired old argument used by the Atlantic Yards supporters that I'm paraphrasing here: "You newcomers have no right to express your opinion about my neighborhood." Wait a minute. Exactly how long does one have to live in Brooklyn in order to be considered a real Brooklynite?

The bottom line is, anyone who lives in Brooklyn today has a right to express his or her opinion. The government only requires 30 days of residence before you get a driver's license; that sounds like a good guideline here, too.

Abby Weissman, Fort Greene

Hospital woes

To the editor,

While I applaud The Brooklyn Paper's continued interest in the happenings at Long

Island College Hospital, I think it is imperative that locals be made aware of the truly dire situation within the institution ("Heads roll at wobbly LICH," July 26).

Not only have numerous programs been closed in the last year, several more are on the chopping block. Continuum Health Partners, which owns the hospital, seems to be only interested in making money, not in providing quality services to people in the area. Continued program closings would leave thousands of people with no local health care; the nearest hospital is Woodhull Hospital, a city facility with a questionable reputation.

Downtown Brooklyn residents deserve high quality care and a wide-range of services, all within the neighborhood. Local residents need to stand up for what they deserve.

Marie Cierra, Brooklyn Heights

Bike bandit

To the editor,

As someone who has gone through the shock and anger of having many bikes stolen over the years, I certainly know what your editor, Gersh Kuntzman, must have felt when he discovered his own transport ripped off one fine morning ("Gersh taken for a ride," Park Slope edition and online, July 26).

With bike riding and commuting becoming

so much a part of life for everyone, myself for sure these days, and the city providing so many handy bike lanes, perhaps The Brooklyn Paper could offer tips on the best — and worse — ways to hang onto your bike.

As a recent victim, it seems Gersh would be a good first subject.

By the way, I enjoy and read your paper every issue.

Gene Kahn, Windsor Terrace

Editor's note: Kuntzman offers these tips, all gleaned from his recent misfortune: 1. Don't use a thin chain. 2. Don't chain your bike where it is visible to anyone. 3. Listen to your wife when she advises you to follow suggestions 1 and 2.

Fight goes on

To the editor,

I was disappointed to read Alec Brook-Krany's response to my letter pointing out his lack of involvement in efforts to save Victory Memorial Hospital's emergency room (letters, July 10). As I stated previously, Victory was in the heart of Brook-Krany's district in Dyker Heights and Bay Ridge, and it was his Democratic political party leaders in Albany who did not listen to our pleas to keep it open.

He claims that just because I have questioned his public record as our assemblyman, I am "mudslinging" and "in need of a new

job." Rather, I was merely distinguishing myself from his failed record for our district. It is ironic that Brook-Krany never challenged or questioned the main assertion of my letter. It is not "mudslinging" to ask why our assemblyman was nowhere to be found in the fight to save Victory.

I will never sit idly by as our community gets the shaft from leaders in Albany.

Bob Capano, Bay Ridge

The writer is a Republican running to replace Brook-Krany in the Assembly.

Venting & vending

To the editor,

I have enjoyed your coverage of the Red Hook vendors, and especially enjoyed the video that Gersh Kuntzman did during that press conference ("Our man grills the commissah," The Brooklyn Angle, online, July 24).

I loved seeing Kuntzman grill Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe and Sen. Charles Schumer!

It's hard to believe that they didn't even have the decency to respectfully acknowledge what those vendors went through (both in terms of complying to the regulations as well as their financial losses).

I am looking forward to following the rest of your reporting.

Chantelle Karl, Manhattan

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SNY
Editor
of the Year
2008

SNY
Newspaper
of the Year
2007

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The Brooklyn Paper

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 2, 2008

Classic 'Frock'

High fashion goes vintage at a new Park Slope boutique

By Adam Ratho
The Brooklyn Paper

It's August and the heat and humidity are still on the rise. But for Lexi Sacchi, the buyer for Frock, a new vintage boutique in Park Slope, it's almost time to break out the winter threads.

"I just came across an amazing [wool] Yves St. Laurent jumpsuit," she said. "It doesn't matter what season it is — in vintage, you never know when you're going to come across it again. In New York, people are more knowledgeable, and it's harder to find great stuff."

At only 25, Sacchi, a Park Slope native, has developed quite an eye for doing just that. Scouring estate sales, auctions, private collections and "hole-in-the-wall consignment shops," she and Evan Ross, the boutique's owner, have managed to fill two shops (the original outpost is in Manhattan) and build up a faithful clientele of fashion-savvy shoppers, stylists, designers and celebrities. Indeed, when fashion icons like Iman and Sarah Jessica Parker already flock to the location across the river, can Brooklyn stars like Maggie Gyllenhaal and Kerri Russell be far behind?

"Our clientele is very Park Slope: women who know more about fashion and appreciate high-end, vintage designer clothes," Sacchi said on a recent afternoon. On our visit, the 450-square-foot store was open yet, but shoppers popped in through the door and proved her right, admiring floral-print Oscar de la Renta dresses and slightly loved Hermes handbags.

The prices at Frock range from \$150 for a blouse to \$2,600 for a one-of-a-kind dress, but this hasn't sent second-hand enthusiasts running back to the thrift shop just yet.

"I am aware of what women will and won't do for fashion," said Sacchi. "People should be able to find things that they can really use."

SHOPPING

Frock (274 Fifth Ave. at Garfield Place in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The store is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Mondays. For information, call (718) 499-2950 or visit www.frocknyc.com.



Fashion flashback: Frock, a new Park Slope clothing boutique, carries high-end, second-hand designer clothing such as this Victor Costa gown (\$395) from the 1980s. These vintage Chanel bracelet and earrings are also for sale, with prices available on request.

So far, the store has done a brisk business in cocktail dresses and purses — high-end items that are fashionable without being over-the-top. Save runway pieces that could double as prom dresses for the luckiest teenager ever, the shop leaves more extreme couture to its other branch.

"The selection here is slightly different," said Sacchi. "In Manhattan, a lot of our clientele is editorial, but stuff here is more wearable. Sometimes we have stuff like bodysuits that are geared more toward stylists. It's not like going to Barney's and looking for a dress. People are looking for one specific piece, and I can help them out."

For clients like stylist CeCe Barfield, this special attention doesn't go unnoticed.

"I really don't mess around with other vintage stores," said Barfield. "I know they only have the best of the best." Barfield, who claimed her best find at the store was a black dress by designer Thierry Mugler that she wore to a party at the Metropolitan Museum, went on: "It seems like Brooklyn really dictates a lot of the city's style, and Frock does the same. They complement one another."

And for Sacchi, building a business on Fifth Avenue could be said to be a family tradition. Her grandfather, Anthony Sciacchi, owned Cucina, the famed neighborhood eatery, and she sees his as footsteps to follow in.

"He loved this neighborhood, and I'm the same way," said Sacchi. "I'm making a point of being in the store every day and developing a relationship with our customers."

It seems that it isn't just the merchandise, but the approach to customer service, that's both charming and vintage at Frock.

FITNESS

Get on board

Starting Aug. 2, you'll get the chance to explore the East River on a kayak or a rowboat, no experience necessary.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, in partnership with local boating groups is offering free kayaking and community rowing out of the park at the foot of Main Street on six weekends this summer.

The goal is to provide access to a river that has remained largely unexplored by the public.

"We want to demonstrate that it's boat-able, because we enjoy it and use it, and we want other people to enjoy it as well," said Rob Buchanan, president of the Village Community Boat-house located in Manhattan.

From the surface of the water, you'll get an exciting view of Olafur Eliasson's "Waterfalls" and more. "New York harbor" is one of the half-dozen great harbors of the world. It's the ultimate, it's natural perfection," Buchanan said. "It's why New York is what it is."

Boating from the park at Main and Water streets in DUMBO will begin on Aug. 2, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, and will be offered at varying times each weekend until Sept. 14. Free. For information, call (718) 802-0603 ext. 16 or visit www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

— Kate Ray

ART

Reel people

Our coastal borough hasn't lost all traces of its maritime ways, as photographer Christian Johnston and writer Shamar Hill reveal in their exhibit "Fishermen of Sheephead Bay," on display now at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene.

Ten color portraits of local fishing enthusiasts — along with Hill's accounts of their lives — tell the story of Sheephead Bay. Fishing is very vital to the economy [in Sheephead Bay]. It's part of the fabric and the history of the community," Hill told GO Brooklyn.

The artists present simply framed portraits and short texts that give the viewer a glimpse into the anglers' lives.

Recreational fishermen "Daniel and Ana" (pictured) told Hill the story of Ana's loss of sight, and about her peacefulness and rhythm of fishing helped her re- envision her world.

"They were very open," Hill said. "People there like to tell stories. It's connected to fishing, which is slow and concentrated. Most people seemed very peaceful."

"Fishermen of Sheephead Bay" is on display now through Sept. 19 at Gallery Three at South Oxford Space (168 South Oxford St. at Hanson Place in Fort Greene). Free. For more information, call (718) 398-3078. — Kate Ray

ART

'Best Painting'

When art writers Deanna MacDonald and Geoff Smith set out to write their book, "100 Best Paintings in New York," they knew from the get-go that our borough would be a great place to visit.

"We knew the Brooklyn Museum was the place we could find works that could stand up in competition with works at the Met [and] MoMA," said MacDonald.

The duo chose Georgia O'Keeffe's "Ram's Head, White Hollyhock-Hills" (1935), pictured, which hangs in the museum's Luce Center for American Art.

"We did consider the other great O'Keeffe works in the Met, but in the end, this one struck us the most," said MacDonald. "We, of course, took into consideration a painting's status within the world of art history, but we also considered our own personal preferences, which paintings spoke to us, caught our eye as soon as we entered the room, made [us] wonder about the artist and why they made this specific work. This O'Keeffe did all that for me."

"100 Best Paintings in New York" (\$22, Interlink Books) is available at Barnes & Noble (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). For information, call (718) 832-9066 or visit www.bn.com.

— Adam Ratho

Three cheers

Everybody knows your name at Williamsburg's new Trophy bar

By Kate Ray
The Brooklyn Paper

Even though The Trophy Bar in Williamsburg has only been open for three months, it already has the feel of an established neighborhood watering hole.

"Hey Doug, where's your mustache?" bar-

tender and co-owner Jim Rowe asks of a man who strolls into the bar on a recent Monday night.

"I don't think we've met," says another customer, extending his hand over the bar to shake Rowe's.

Rowe opened the bar in April, along with fellow Williamsburg residents Mandy Mis-



Prize watering hole: Trophy owners Mandy Misagal (left), Jim Rowe (center) and Farika spout off at their new Williamsburg bar.

agal and Farika, who previously owned the Stay Gold Gallery and artists' studios just around the corner on Grand Street.

Because Stay Gold had created a loyal following by the time they shut it down, Misagal and Farika wanted to create a place that would be an artists' venue as well as a gathering place for their former patrons and neighborhood locals.

With Trophy, they've done just that.

The backyard houses a small sculpture garden — right now, there's an abstract piece by Bushwick artist Jason Peters, who also did Trophy's interior woodwork — and throws weekend barbecues every Sunday (and some Saturdays).

The exterior of the bar is discrete — there's no name on the black awning, just a picture of a gold trophy — and the interior is tranquil, with soft lighting, a cool green and black color scheme, and shelves of polished trophies.

See **TROPHY** on page 10

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Check individual gallery websites for up-to-date info.

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Aug. 4 G-d is the Creator and Ruler of all things.
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Aug. 18 G-d does not have a body... Nothing resembles Him.
Aug. 25 G-d is first and last.
Sept. 8 We pray only to G-d.
Sept. 15 All the words of the prophets are true.
Sept. 22 The prophecy of Moses is absolutely true.
Oct. 6 The entire Torah was given to Moses.
Oct. 20 Torah will not be changed, and no other will be given by G-d.
Oct. 27 G-d knows all of man's deeds and thoughts.
Nov. 3 G-d rewards those who keep His commandments and punishes those who transgress Him.
Nov. 10 Moshiah will come, and I will await His coming every day.
Nov. 17 The dead will return to life when G-d wills it to happen.

To prepare for this course, please read "Maimonides Principle: Fundamentals of Jewish Faith" by Aryeh Kaplan. Available on Amazon.com and other online bookstores.

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HERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

<h3>SATURDAY</h3> <p>August 2</p> <h4>Catch the wave</h4> <p>Jump in a boat and push off from the shores of DUMBO today, when the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy brings in some river-worthy vessels. No experience necessary — just a love of the high seas! See story on page 7.</p>	<h3>SUNDAY</h3> <p>August 3</p> <h4>Out of Africa</h4> <p>Celebrate Brooklyn hosts a daylong guitar festival, featuring musicians from Africa. At 7:30 pm, Zimabwe's soulful Oliver Mtshuzi (pictured, right) will close the program of five acts. If the music's got you on the move, sample the vendors offering food, clothing, crafts and more.</p>	<h3>MONDAY</h3> <p>August 4</p> <h4>Badu news</h4> <p>Don't cry if you missed her gig at Radio City Music Hall in May — "Honey"-voiced crooner Erykah Badu will take the stage for a free Brooklyn performance tonight. The singer-songwriter is touring in support of her first album in eight long years, "New Amerykah Part One (4th World War)." 7:30 pm. Wingate Field (Brooklyn Avenue at Woorthrop Street in Crown Heights). Free. Seating is limited; bring a chair. For information, call (718) 222-0600 or visit www.brooklynconcerts.com.</p>	<h3>WEDNESDAY</h3> <p>August 6</p> <h4>Good ol' days</h4> <p>The Alloy Orchestra will perform live at a screening of Ted Wilde's 1928 silent film "Speedy" tonight. Among the highlights of the slapstick flick are actors Harold Lloyd and Ann Christy (pictured) cavorting through Coney Island in its heyday. 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). \$15, \$10 students and seniors. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.</p>	<h3>THURSDAY</h3> <p>August 7</p> <h4>Sail away</h4> <p>Tonight, Liza Minnelli is back by popular demand at Marty Markowitz's Seaside Summer Concert Series in Coney Island! As if seeing the sequin-studded "Cabaret" star isn't enough of an incentive to put up those jazz hands, the chanteuse will be joined by "Sailing" star Christopher Cross.</p>
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NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, AUG 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

COLONIAL LIVING: The New York City Urban Park Rangers invite you to discover what life was like in America in the years just before the Revolution. Try your hand at colonial era games, butter churning, and watch a colonial open pit cooking demonstration. Noon-3 pm. Meet at Visitors Center, Fort Greene Park. Enter at Myrtle Avenue or DeKalb Avenue at Washington Park. (718) 722-3218. Free.

CANOE THE LULLWATER: Enjoy a day of canoeing on the Lullwater to the Lake and back. 11 am, 12:30 pm and 2 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. Enter at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 227-3400. Free.

BIRDING: 9 am. Salt Marsh Center, 2302 Ave. U. For more information, call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.

OPEN PADDLE: Row the boat. 9 am to noon. Pier 42 Boat Basin, foot of Avenue N. (718) 241-3663. www.seabagcanoeclub.org. Free.

PARK CLEAN UP: Help spruce up Salt Marsh Nature Center. 1 pm. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

CATCH THE WAVE: Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy invites you to jump in a boat and push off from the shores of DUMBO. No experience necessary. 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. Enter park at Main and Water streets in DUMBO. (718) 802-0603 ext. 18. www.brooklynbridgepark.org. Free.

PERFORMANCE

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Communicable Arts presents its production of "Much Ado About Nothing." \$10, 2 pm. Von King Cultural Center Amphitheater, Tompkins Park, 670 Lafayette Ave., between Marcy and Tompkins avenues. www.communicablearts.org.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Performing arts fest presents the Verizon Concert Series with Father Goose, The Sippys, Sonia Marzano, James McDaniel and Joan Osborne. \$3 suggested donation. 4 pm. Prospect Park band shell. Prospect Park West at Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music performance, with works by Mozart and Beethoven. \$50, \$25 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

SUN, AUG 3

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WALK WITH PAINT: Paint your way through the city. See the "Princess of Prospect Place," Queen Anne-style mansions and brownstones. 10 am to noon. Meet at corner of Bergen Street and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 722-3218. Free.

BIRDING: Meet the residents of Owl's Head Park. Noon. Meet at the Park House at Colonial Road. Call 311 for Parks & Recreation information. Free.

AMAZING ARCHES: Explore Prospect Park's unique arches while learning the history of these features. 1 pm. Meet outside the Audubon Center, Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 227-3400. Free.

PERFORMANCE

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Performing arts fest presents the Verizon Concert Series with African Guit Festival with Oliver Mtshuzi and Black Spirits, Habiba Koite and Ramada, Daby Touré, Yousi Rose and Afrikan Bess, and Extra Golden. \$3 suggested donation. 2 pm to 9 pm. Prospect Park band shell. Prospect Park West at Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999.

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OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: Target First Saturday at the Brooklyn Museum celebrates Caribbean culture with steel pan music, still walkers, carnival costumes, and more on the museum's outdoor plaza, beginning at 3 pm. Lineup of film, music, theater and dance from all over the Caribbean. Highlights include Afro-Cuban music with Amma McKen and her drum and voice ensemble. 3 pm to 7 pm. Ave. Dance Theatre Collective presents "Two folklors" of the French Caribbean. 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Hands on African art-making. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Film: "See Life is a Whistle" (2000). 8:30 pm. More. Dance party from 9 pm to 11 pm. (718) 636-5000. www.brooklynmuseum.org.

200 Eastern Parkway, Free.

OFF LEASH PARTY: FIDO in Prospect Park invites dogs and their owners to the 10th anniversary reception of off-leash in the Meadow. Coffee, cake, biscuits, surprises and plain old fun for dogs and people. 7 am to 9 am. Prospect Park's Low Meadow, below the Picnic House. Also, The Mayor's Alliance Adoption party. Bartel Pritchard Square, Prospect Park West and 15th Street. 9:30 am to 3 pm. (888) 604-3422. Free.

INDIE MARKET: Market offers handmade items such as jewelry by Wabobio. Brooklyn, hats by Rocks and Salt, kids wear by Wonder Threads, and frocks by Melissa Bell. 11 am to 7 pm. Cobble Hill Park, Smith Street between 4th and 5th streets. (347) 407-1187.

PLAY BALL: Ladies Night. Brooklyn Cyclones play the State Island Yankees. 5 to 8 pm. 5 pm. Koyan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 449-8497.

SUDELUCK POTSHOW: Party and exhibit for members of arts, photography and media communities. Bring food, drink and five minutes worth of slides. 6:30 pm to midnight. McCann Park Pool, Lorrimer Street between Driggs and Bayard streets. (917) 871-4049. Free.

ROLLER RINK OPENS: Lola Star's Dreamland Roller Rink opening extravaganza.

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BREAKING CHEWS

By Kate Ray
for The Brooklyn Paper

If you want authentic Mexican food in Williamsburg, look no further than the street — Berry Street, that is.

La Superior, which opened Friday, serves Mexican "comida corrida a callejera," or Mexican diner and street food, in a colorful eatery that is designed to evoke images of a typical Mexican dive bar or butcher shop. The food is "truly Mexican, without any pretense," according to owner Iris Avelar, and ranges from savory snacks like "quesitos" — cups of cooked corn kernels with Mexican mayo, cheese and lime — to entrees like "pollo escabechado" — chicken with mole peanut sauce and broccoli, carrots and potatoes — or the exotic "nopal asado con queso" — grilled cactus with melted cheese.

The menu will change regularly, but you can count on staples like beans, tacos and quesadillas. La Superior hasn't gotten its liquor license yet, but they do have a juice bar, serving fresh drinks like "liquido de mamey" — a sweet melon smoothie — and Mexican "limonada," which Avelar assured GO Brooklyn is "a really amazing lemonade like you've never had in your life."

For those Williamsburg bar-hoppers in search of something fast and fried, the restaurant is open till 1 a.m. on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends, and will also serve brunch on the weekends.

Myrtle map

Navigating the cluster of cute shops, cafes and restaurants around Myrtle Avenue has just gotten a lot easier, with the release of the first annual Myrtle Avenue Shopping and Dining Guide.

The guide lists over 150 businesses along Myrtle Avenue between Flatbush and Classon avenues — including the pan-Latino restaurant **Luz**, the comfort food of **Five Spot Supper Club** and the French-African fusion eatery **abisto** — along with a foldout map of the area and public transportation details. "We're encouraging local residents to remember Myrtle Avenue as they shop," said Jennifer Stokes of the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, which produced the guide. "We're reminding them that those businesses are here."

Stokes said that the smaller mom 'n' pop businesses are often forgotten, which is why the cover of the guide spotlights 16 of those little bizzes.

The free guide is available at the Brooklyn Tourism Center at Borough Hall in Downtown Brooklyn, the Fort Greene Park Visitors Center, and most of the shops along Myrtle Avenue.



Room for more chocolate: Naomi Joseph, proprietor of Park Slope's popular Chocolate Room (above), has opened an outpost in Cobble Hill. (At right) Park Slope's Palo Santo restaurant will host a dinner featuring the wines of three South American women on Wednesday.



Grape ladies

Celebrate South American wine and the bounty of summer produce at **Palo Santo**! The Park Slope Latin restaurant is hosting a wine dinner on Wednesday, Aug. 6, to showcase vino made by three South American women. The dinner, hosted by chef Jacques Gautier at his Union Street restaurant, includes seven courses paired with seven wines, and costs \$75 a person. Call (718) 656-6511 for RSVP.

Slide on over

This isn't your parents' potluck dinner. Over 500 people are expected to flood into the "2008 Slide-luck Potshow," making its Brooklyn debut at the McCaen Park Pool on Aug. 2. The annual potluck-and-slide-show event showcases five minutes worth of slides submitted by each artist along with the culinary creations of all its attendees.

"We've had incredible potlucks," explained founder and director Casey Kelbaugh. "It's a very much participation-based. When people start to show up, empty-handed, that's when it starts to fall apart."

Kelbaugh teamed up with his partner Alys Kenny when he first brought "Slide-luck" to Manhat-

tan five years ago, and since then, has exported the event to over 40 cities across the world, from DC to Rio to Stockholm.

And so far, "We've never had any kind of a problem, like allergies or food poisoning or anything like that," Kelbaugh assured Breaking Chews!

We think we'll stick to the salads. For information, visit www.slide-luckpotshow.com or call (917) 804-2767.

More chocolate

Park Slope's much-loved sweet spot **The Chocolate Room** has opened a new location on Court Street in Cobble Hill. While owner Naomi Joseph called the original shop "so intimate and charming," she said the latest — and bigger — outpost is more "sleek and sexy." The desserts on the menu — from the chocolate layer cake to the Amaretto Italian chocolate, described by Joseph as simply "the world's best" — have not changed a bit, though.

So far this summer, the home-made ice cream has been a hit,

especially the "fresh mint chip" and the vanilla, which is made with gourmet beans from Madagascar and whose proceeds help to support an orphanage there.

If you really deserve a treat, go for the brownie sundae, complete with a warm brownie, ice cream, hot fudge and whipped cream. The Cobble Hill location expects to get its liquor license soon, when it will start pairing wines with its desserts.

Where's the beef? It's time to get your fingers greasy, because the **Five Guys** in Park Slope is open!

The national chain, which made a name for itself with its pared-down, but well-executed menu, already has one location in Brooklyn Heights. The Park Slope store boasts the same burgers, hot dogs, fries and soda, but with seating for 80, it's a lot bigger.

So why Park Slope's Seventh Avenue? General Manager Nitin Yadav said the decision was simple.

"We felt that it was a neighborhood that was underserved by great hamburgers," said Yadav. "And we have the best burgers and fries around."

That's one man's opinion, of course. Indeed, in other burger news, what was once **Mediterra** on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street in Park Slope is now **Corner Burger**.

"I wanted to respond to the younger crowd and serve American food — just to have a new clientele," explained owner Hilda Hamper. From the **Mediterra** menu, Hamper kept only the chicken

platter, house salad and falafel, and added an array of hamburgers made from meat freshly ground every day, along with shakes, fries and other own specialty, "fried pickles."

The most popular burgers are the "Slope Burger" — with cheddar, bacon and onion rings — and the "Soul Burger" — with cheddar, cheese, ham, sautéed onion and barbecue sauce.

Value is the spice of life, however, so **Corner Burger** also offers veggie burgers, turkey burgers and bun-less burgers served atop salad.

Organic cafe

Brother-sister team Chris Jackson and Michelle Mannix opened the new Cobble Hill cafe **Ted & Honey** as an "organic and local cafe," which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared with produce supplied by local farmers.

Everything is made in-house, from the early morning muffins, scones and granola, to the popular "Fide" sandwich — slow-roasted pork with Gruyere, pickles, mustard and Berkshire ham, all pressed into a baguette and grilled.

There's also a daily special, like the zucchini-portobello "burger" with Gorgonzola and a daily "acqua fresca" chilled drink, like watermelon-cinnamon, as well as a full coffee bar, salad bar and Van Leeuwen ice cream for dessert.

This week, Ted & Honey will be offering dinner as well, with one meal a night consisting of an entree and two sides, for a fixed price. They'll be posting the upcoming menus at the Clinton Street cafe at the beginning of each week, so you'll know when to come back.

Seafood 'Spot'

The **Spot** — right around the corner from the Brooklyn Museum — is the latest addition to Prospect Heights.

This self-styled "American bistro" on Prospect Place is actually more of a cultural megalounge, according to co-owner John Harris, who said that the menu is influenced by the three partners' different backgrounds — Southern, Dominican and Ecuadorian.

The seafood dishes — such as ceviche, lobster ravioli and paella — are among the most popular, although the weekend brunch, which includes unlimited tea, coffee, champagne or mimosa, is a big attraction as well.

"The Spot has a city-lounge feel to it," Harris said. "People come in and they just sit for hours and enjoy it."

Cheese squeeze

Yet another pizza place is nudging into Williamsburg's mozzarella-lined streets.

Barosa, which opened July 12, serves pizza along with a full Italian menu. Although the classic Margherita is the pizza of choice, Barosa also offers appetizers such as fried calamari with hot chili peppers and tomato sauce, a full pasta menu including the "rigatoni Barosa" — broccoli rabe, sweet sausage and hot chili peppers — and homemade cannoli, along with paninis, herbs and calzones for lunch.

The liquor license is pending, but Barosa is already serving beer and wine.

Owner Nick Repcaru opened the first Barosa in Queens four years ago, and said it's been so successful that he's not worried about the competition on Graham Avenue.

Said Repcaru, "It's not a problem. We're not afraid."



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MILO BAUGHMAN AND GUY HILL FOR THAYER COGGIN



"Face" out: Deceased Quilters Guild of Brooklyn member Lenni Abel incorporated pictures of herself in her work, "Laughing in the Face of Adversity," on display now at Brooklyn College.

Artful spreads

Midwood quilt exhibition tackles life's challenges and cherished moments

By Rabiya Smith
for The Brooklyn Paper

A group of Brooklyn quilters are redefining the way we think of the folk art by their latest show, "Stitch by Stitch: Works in Fabric." The cutting edge exhibition on display now through Aug. 22 in Midwood — confronts issues ranging from cancer to consumer culture. So if you're thinking in terms of the quilts that your great-grandmother made, think again.

Pieced together by Park Slope's Quilters' Guild of Brooklyn and Brooklyn College, "Stitch by Stitch" showcases 25 vibrant quilts created by 22 members. Founded in 1993, the guild's 200 members represent all ages and levels of quilting experience, yet their latest show, conveys personal and socio-political messages with skill and heart.

"Fancy Footwork" by Guild Co-president Madeleine Appell is a colorful confection inspired by the fashion world — and will be appreciated by all who harbor a soft fetish. With a typical nine-stitch quilting pattern, Appell features atypical subject matter

— each square is a window to display the latest chic and trendy shoes! This Midwood resident told GO! Brooklyn the inspiration for "Footwork" came to her after attending a Christian Louboutin exhibit at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Appell said that she wanted to create a quilt about "the power of shoes" and that she is "hoping to do more in the series."

A quilt like "Brooklyn Neighbors," by Lynn Hill of Carroll Gardens, is a feel-good piece, made of rich green

and brown fabric, that celebrates racial and ethnic diversity in Kings County. The center of the quilt reflects the borough's shape, while the faces of children representing many nationalities comprise the quilt's borders.

"Stitch by Stitch" also features works that deal with harsher realities of life. "Laughing in the Face of Adversity" by Lenni Abel, a former co-president of the Quilters' Guild who died in February, highlights a series of tragic events that plagued her family.

In her artist's statement — poignantly titled "I'm a Survivor" — Abel wrote, "When crisis after crisis began to inundate my family, my creative life became my outlet. A way to maintain my sanity as well as a source of healing."

In the quilt, "Laughing," Abel incorporated smiling photographs of herself without hair — lost to cancer treatments.

Ranging in mood from festive to melancholy, this quilt exhibit doesn't feature your common bedspreads. "Stitch by Stitch" breaks away from traditional quilting patterns, using life's journey as its source material.

BROOKLYN Nightlife



Dave's big splash: Ocean Island singer-songwriter Dave Doobirin — whose album, "The Birth of Wonder," will be released in September — will play the McCarren Park Pool in Williamsburg on Aug. 5 at 7 pm. For info, visit www.mccarrenpark.com.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play the St. Yankees. Also, Medieval Times. Night, \$7 to \$15. 7 pm. KeySpan Park, 1954 Surf Ave. (718) 489-8497.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK: State Sen. Marty Golden presents "City Sounds" featuring oldies and classic disco music. 7 pm. 18th Avenue at 62nd Street. (718) 234-7547. Free.

MUK CONCERT SERIES: Borough President Mark Markowitz presents the 26th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series. Tonight: Erykah Badu. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field, entrance on Brooklyn Avenue, Rutland Road and Windsor Street. (718) 222-0400. Free.

MCCAREN PARK POOL: presents the Brooklyn-based theater company Woodshed Collective in "Twelve O'Clocks." 8 pm. Loomer and Bayard streets. For information and a complete schedule, visit www.thetheatrainnyc.com. Free.

TUES, AUG 5

CHARITY GOLF OUTING: Hosted by the Brooklyn Cyclones. Day starts with a shotgun start and ends with dinner. Silent auction, raffles and more. 1 pm. Call for more information. (718) 377-8801.

WHAT'S THE WORD?: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch has a class on Microsoft Word. Room 216. 5 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP: Church Avenue Merchants Business Association hosts a talk, "Search Engine Optimization." 6 pm to 8:30 pm. 864 Flatbush Ave. (718) 282-2500. Free.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK: State Sen. Marty Golden presents The Remnants, performing a tribute to oldies, as part of the 68th Police Precinct's Night Out. 7 pm. 79th Street at Shore Road. (718) 236-7457. Free.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Park Slope's Annual National Night Out Against Crime, Parade, food and activities. 6 pm. Fifth Avenue at Sterling Place. (718) 636-6410. Free. Also, 94th Precinct's National Night Out Against Crime. Food, fun and police exhibits. 7 pm to 9 pm. 100 Meserole Ave. (718) 383-3879. Free.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK: State Sen. Marty Golden presents music by DJ Vinny as part of 62nd Police Precinct's Night Out. Bring family and friends, face painting for young children. 7 pm. 8th Avenue at Bay 23rd Street. (718) 236-7547. Free.

WATERFRONT WORKOUT: The Fitness Guru returns to kick-start today. Pilates Mat Class. 7 pm to 8 pm. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. Boardwalk, Empire Fulton Ferry Park, 26 New Dock St. at Water Street. www.brooklynbridgepark.org. Free.

WED, AUG 6

RED FLAG WEDNESDAY: Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation hosts promotions, sample food and discounts. 10 am to midnight. Atlantic Avenue between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 243-1414.

WALKING TOUR: Big Onion Walking Tours take a tour across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15. \$12 seniors and students. 1 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers streets near Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

CHINESE MOVIE: "Xia Ri Ju Chang." 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's McKinley Park branch, 6802 Fort Hamilton Parkway. (718) 748-0001. Free.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Nine Days in Brooklyn, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@brooklynpaper.com or by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 35 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.



That's 'Suite': Celebrate Brooklyn presents Alley! performing excerpts from Alvin Ailey's "Blues Suite" and more at the Prospect Park band shell on Aug. 7 at 8 pm. Free classes in modern-jazz dance, at 5:30 pm, and West African dance, at 6:30 pm, precede the show at the park's picnic house.

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS: Learn verbal and physical self-defense techniques and participate in activities and discussions relating to violence prevention safety and conflict de-escalation. Open to teen women and trans-youth, ages 14 to 19. 4:30 pm to 6 pm. Center for Anti-Violence Education, 327 Seventh St. (718) 788-1775. Free.

OPEN PADDLE: Row the boat. 5:30 pm. Pier 26 Basin, foot of Avenue N. (718) 261-3663. www.sebagocanoeclub.org. Free.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TALK: Learn the secrets to getting into college and take a tour of Brooklyn College. 6 pm to 9 pm. Student Center at Brooklyn College, East 27th Street and Campus Road. (718) 375-5591. Free.

MUSIC AT THE BRIDGE: Brooklyn Bridge Conservancy hosts a weekly outdoor concert series curated by five Brooklyn performance spaces. Today: Issue Project Room presents French Kids, Headlights, Tiny Masters of Today, Union Hall's Secret Science Club and Dave Hill. 6 pm. The Tobacco Warehouse, 26 New Dock St. (718) 797-0603. Free.

CONCERT IN THE PARK: Carl Thomas sings songs of Darin, Sinatra and Marlin. Also, Elvis impersonator. 7 pm. Bay Ridge Park, 79th Street and Shore Road. (718) 636-6410. Free.

SCREENING: BAMcinematk presents The Alley Orchestra performing live to a screening of the silent film, "Speedy" (1928), with scenes shot on location in Coney Island. \$15. \$10 students and seniors. 7 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 646-4100. www.bam.org.

PUBLIC HEARING: District 20 of the Community Education Council is open to discuss "Charter School in District 20." 7 pm to 9 pm. 415 87th St. (718) 759-3921.

MCCAREN PARK POOL: "Twelve O'Clocks." 8 pm. See Mon., Aug 4.

THURS, AUG 7

RHYTHM AND BLUES FEST: Outdoor concert series hosted by Brooklyn Academy of Music. Today: Richie Havens, with special guest Marcus Carl Franklin. Noon to 2 pm. Metrotech Commons, corner of Flatbush and Myrtle avenues. (718) 636-4100. Free.

FRI, AUG 8

WINE TASTING: Enjoy rose wines at LeNell's. Noon to 10 pm. 416 Brun St. between Coffey and Van Dyke streets. (718) 501-6338. Free.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Performing arts festival. 10 am to 5 pm. See Mon. and Villa Lobos Brothers, Grupo Nostromo. 5 pm. Prospect Park band shell, foot of Avenue N. (718) 261-3663. Free.

FILM SERIES: presented by Spoke the Hub. Tonight: "Taking the Heat," an evening with Liz Minnelli. Also, Christopher C. Smith presents "The Last Days of America." 7:30 pm. 295 Douglas St. between Third and Fourth avenues. (718) 408-3224.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music performance, with works by Chopin, Paganini and Liszt. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-0023.

BURLESQUE SHOW: 10 pm. See Thurs., Aug 7.

MCCAREN PARK POOL: "Twelve O'Clocks." 8 pm. See Mon., Aug 4.

SAT, AUG 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

OPEN PADDLE: Row the boat. 9 am to noon. Pier 26 Basin, foot of Avenue N. (718) 261-3663. www.sebagocanoeclub.org. Free.

WALK IN THE PARK: Big Onion Tours takes a walk around Prospect Park, with a tour of the park's waterfalls. See the Oriental Pavilion, the Vale of Calmness, the Long Meadow and more. \$15, \$12 seniors and students. 1

pm. Meet at intersection of Prospect Park West and Ninth Street, at the Margate Life Lafayette memorial. (212) 439-1090.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Big Onion Tours takes a hike around this landmark cemetery. Stops include the graves of Charles Ebbets, Louis T. Tiffany and Charlotte Canda. \$15, \$12 seniors and students. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street, Sunset Park. (212) 439-1090.

PERFORMANCE

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OTHER

INDIE MARKET: Market offers handmade items such as jewelry by Wababali Beads, hats by Rocks and Salt, kids wear by Wonder Thread, and fresh vegetables by Bell. 11 am to 7 pm. Cobble Hill Park, Smith Street between Union and President streets. (212) 407-1187.

ROSE TASTING: at LeNell's. Noon to 10 pm. 416 Brun St. between Coffey and Van Dyke streets. (718) 501-6338.

BOOK DESIGN: Power House Books hosts a class on book design and layout preparation and presentation. \$400, \$250 students. 11 am to 5 pm. Empire State Building. (212) 692-0006.

SAVVY CYCLISTS: Bike New York offers a class on bike repair. 6 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Windsor Terrace branch. 160 E. Fifth St. (718) 586-9700. Free.

ART MAKING: Designer Cal Patch from the Brooklyn Craft Community Treehouse demonstrates Egyptian medieval blackwork embroidery. Participants will create their own sample of stitches and patterns inspired by the exhibition, "Chada Amer: Love has No End." Included in museum admission of \$8. \$4 seniors and students; free children 12 and younger. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. Registration required. E-mail: creativeart@brooklynmuseum.org.

SINGLES MINGLE: at The Roxbury Lounge. Buffet dinner and dance. \$10. 1 pm. 315 93rd St., between Third and Fourth avenues. Also, Mix and Meet at Dykes Street. \$20 to \$15. \$5 without drink. 7:30 pm. 8315 Fourth Ave. (718) 953-6292.

SUN, AUG 10

PERFORMANCE

BARGE MUSIC: 4 pm. See Saturday, Aug 9.

ART IN THE PARK: Local photographers, painters and a variety of mixed media artists sell their original art pieces along the Shore Road Promenade. 11 am to 4 pm. Shore Road between Bay Ridge Avenue and 72nd Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 748-9848.

URBAN ARTS: Brooklyn Urban Arts Market presents small and local businesses with food, clothing and more. Meet with Kool Bob Love. Noon to 6 pm. Myrtle Avenue between Grand Avenue and Emerson Street in Clinton Hill. For more info, contact the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership at (718) 230-1889 or visit brooklynmyrtleavenuearts.com.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Baltimore Muckdogs. Also, Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament. \$7 to \$15. 5 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. (718) 489-8497.

HYMN SING: Sing it out Refreshments and more. 6 pm. The Seafair Avenue Chapel, 252 86th St. (718) 238-2991.

ROSE TASTING: Noon to 9 pm. See Saturday, Aug 9.

For more Brooklyn Nightlife options, see our listings at www.BrooklynPaper.com/Nightlife.

TROPHY...

Continued from page 7

found on eBay or contributed by customers, along the exposed-brick wall.

"It's got a very quiet, a very calm feeling that a lot of the Williamsburg bars don't have," Rowe said.

So far, Trophy's received its most press from the unfortunate Kyle Hausmann incident — the Bedford-Stuyvesant paralytic who, after emerging from a lengthy stay in the bathroom, ended up locked

personally overuses and changes every two months.

The daily happy hour is also a draw: Trophy offers \$4 "Victory" margaritas — with Herradura Silver tequila, Cointreau, sour drink mix, fresh lime juice and salt — as well as \$3 velvety drinks and \$2 off any other drink, from opening until 8 pm.

Other popular drinks include the "Best in Show" cocktail, with St. Germain liqueur, Prosecco,

and fresh lime juice, or one of the eight beers on tap, such as Stella Artois, Hoegaarden and Brooklyn Lager.

But ultimately, Rowe said, "The Trophy Bar is about the people."

"There are quite a few people who are regulars here, but we also have people who have already moved out of the neighborhood, who I really miss. They sort of became part of the bar and now they're gone, you know," he said quietly.

It's clear in the behavior of the customers, most of whom grew Rowe as an old friend or make an effort to introduce themselves, that the personal element of the bar is important to them as well.

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CORRECTION

In "Heights Tour" (July 26, 2008), the price of the "City-Listen Audio Tour" was incorrect. The correct price is \$7.95. We regret the error.

Ft. Greeners have 'Flea' problem

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Shoppers and merchants rallied last weekend in support of a popular flea market against criticism that the weekly bazaar has become a nuisance for neighboring residents and churches.

The three-month-old Brooklyn Flea, held on Sundays on the Bishop Loughlin HS blacktop, had been widely seen as a community and commercial success until last Thursday when church members gathered at Queens of All Saints on Lafayette Avenue to denounce the swap meet for the dog parking, an increase in litter and as an affront to the Sabbath.

"They showed something in the community's face like 'Bum!' said opponent Carol Allen. "If something that established suddenly changes — and something

commercial comes in on the Sabbath — you can be upset."

The Flea, held on Lafayette Avenue between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues, might not celebrate the Almighty, but it's not only about worshipping the almighty dollar either.

"It's a neighborhood thing and it's low key," said Nick Gaffney. Other shoppers toasted the swap meet's organizers for creating a nice local attraction.

But Flea fans' notion that the marketplace has been a boost to Fort Greene and Clinton Hill offers some long-term community residents.

"There's an undercurrent that they're bringing civilization to the natives," said Ernest Augustus, a board member at Cadman Memorial Congregation Church on Lafayette Avenue.

The event's organizers, which include Jonathan Butler, the



Brooklyn Flea organizers Eric Demby (left) and Jonathan Butler (with Borough President Markowitz) smile when their market opened in April. But now, both men have come under fire from neighbors.

founder of Brownstoner.com, a Web site, do not believe that the Flea is part of the borough's ongoing gentrification war.

ough President Markowitz. "We have provided a space for people to meet and gather in an old-fashioned town square."

And after hearing the complaints last week, Demby reiterated that the Flea has a cleaning crew and security detail to keep pedestrian and vehicular traffic moving smoothly. Nonetheless, some residents share the church-goers' concerns.

"There's no parking at all and my vehicle was banged up by a vendor," said Ramesh Kauden, who's lived on Carlton Avenue for 40 years.

Last Thursday's meeting got heated, but by this week, Demby was putting a positive spin on all the hostility he and Butler had encountered.

"We finally had the conversation we needed to have, so hopefully we can put all of this behind us," he said.

Cops: We have a story for the New York Crimes

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops say they have arrested a man who may have been stealing weekend editions of the New York Times from front stoops in Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill and Park Slope since the fall.

The big break in the case came on Saturday, when an investigator with the Old Gray Lady saw the man grab seven stacks of freshly delivered papers from the sidewalk outside a grocery store on Atlantic Avenue, get in a cab, and flee. Together, the papers were worth \$120, cops said.

Investigator Gene Sullivan, who was assigned to the case by the so-called Paper of Record subscribers in several neighborhoods complained of stolen papers, chased after the car and nabbed the man at the corner of Nevins and Schermerhorn streets, cops said.

After two weeks of case, Sullivan impounded the perp and then called the police.

"That guy has been stealing these papers for a while," a police source said.

Cops charged Gary Stewart, 50, with petit larceny, attempted assault, and harassment, according to the criminal complaint. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on July 28 and was released without bail.

He faces up to one year in jail on the misdemeanor charges, a spokesman for the District Attorney's office said.

Stewart's Legal Aid attorney, Nora Christenson, said only, "There's a lot going on with this case. ... He's looking forward to his day in court."

Park Slopers whose papers were stolen are happy to hear the news — even though Stewart, for now, is only charged in the theft of the Boerum Hill papers.

"We're very pleased," said Michael Gubman, who lives on Park Place and was so fed up with the thefts of his newspapers that he installed a fake camera over his stoop and noted telling the burglar to leave.

He's been receiving his papers ever since — but still wants justice.

"The crime should be punished," he said.

D'TOWN DOGS...

Continued from page 1

Sanitation is the biggest issue, explained Metrotech Business Improvement Director Mike Weiss, who said he is working with residents to find proper accommodations for the growing canine population.

"[We are] certainly willing to have people sit there on a blanket — that's not prohibited — but it conflicts with the dog thing because if the dog is doing his number on the lawn, it could be unsanitary," Weiss said. "You can just clean up so much, and you can't clean up wet stuff."

Metrotech isn't the only place in Downtowners that isn't accustomed to dogs, neighbors said. Amy Troni, who moved to the



A Downtown doggie does his business at his master's feet.

BelTel Lofts building after 16 years in Manhattan, said she often gets stares as she runs her errands around the neighborhood. Max in tow.

"People on Fulton Mall look at dogs like they're foreign. I see people scurrying to the side and trying to avoid him," Troni said. "He's not going to do anything! It's weird. I've never had that experience."

Troni recalled the time she and her husband went to a sneaker store along Fulton Mall, but Max wasn't allowed inside.

"I had to stand outside with Max — it's like 'I'm shunned too,'" she said.

Earlier this year, the Parks Department suggested including a dog run in McLaughlin Park, which is at Jay and Tillary streets, as part of a current \$1.13-million renovation. But

Community Board 2 rejected the plan because, among other reasons, the dog run — and its noise — was too close to the Concord Village apartments located across Jay Street, said District Manager Rob Peris. Also, many dog owners in Concord Village said they took their pets to nearby Cadman Plaza Park anyway.

But the community board may reconsider a dog run in McLaughlin Park or discuss prime spots for the pooch paddocks elsewhere in the community, Peris said.

In the meantime, the problem is giving new residents logistical problems they never imagined they'd face in their new neighborhood.

"You just try to find places, but there's nothing really in the immediate [area]. I just don't have time to go too far before I have to go to work," said Troni.

"When I come home, I'll take my cocker spaniel Max for a longer walk in Fort Greene or Cadman Plaza, but it's a hike. I definitely have to invest an hour of my time or more for a decent walk to get somewhere," she added.

But the temporary solution for other residents is causing even more kinds of new problems: "Now we're having a problem because a lot of the dogs are doing their business in front of the [BelTel] building, and the smell is starting to be pretty strong," said Francesca Sorrenti, a BelTel board member.

"The more buildings that come in here, the more problems we're going to have," she added. "The bottom line is, 'Where do you go with the dog?'"

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BUSTED CHEF...

Continued from page 1

19 counts of identity theft and grand larceny for stealing customers' credit card numbers and pocketing nearly \$25,000 since February. He was released on a \$50,000 bail on July 18.

The District Attorney is expected to release an indictment this week, and cops have said that more victims have come forward.

According to the criminal complaint against Kaufman, an employee quietly began collecting evidence against his boss, who also allegedly asked employees to run charges for him



A few days before shutting down, Busy Chef stopped accepting credit cards.

— some of them fraudulent.

Wifredo Cotto said at Kaufman's arraignment on July 18, Despite the allegations and he allegedly brushed off the questions and answered with "non-sensical responses," prosecutor

eatery closed.

"No way!" said Stephanie Wackerman, 38, of Brooklyn Heights. "I had no idea it had closed. I bring my kids here every week for a little treat. That's such a bummer."

Another resident was sad for the employees.

"So all three places are just closed now? That's a shame," said Jack Dawe, 67. "I know the owner got himself into a lot of trouble, but to just close the doors on everyone that worked there, that's a real shame. They're good people."

When Busy Chef opened last spring, it quickly became popular with a growing segment of Brooklynite: the harried office worker who appreciated the shop's prepared, single-serving dinners.

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Methodist lauds 8 Tech graduates

New York Methodist Hospital
Staff members, family, and friends recently gathered together to recognize the accomplishments of this year's eight graduates of New York Methodist Hospital's School of Medical Technology.

The NYM School of Medical Technology is affiliated with

several area colleges. Students attend college for three years and then to classes and a clinical internship at the Hospital for the fourth year.

On successful completion of the program, they receive a bachelor of science degree from

their college, a certificate from the hospital and — upon passing the registry examination administered by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists — professional accreditation.

Rabia N. Mir, chair of pathology and laboratory medicine at

NYM, congratulated the graduates and enumerated the many career possibilities for medical technologists.

"Each of you completed a highly rated program in medical technology," she said. "There is a great deal that all of you can do. Medical technology is a diverse field with numerous opportunities."

The graduates have a range of opportunities they can pursue, such as acting as a specialist within microbiology or molecular biology, working in a clinical practice area, serving government agencies, or embarking upon a career in marketing and sales.

Lori Burkard, program director of NYM's school of medical technology, urged the graduates to view their backgrounds in medical technology as knowledge that will not only lead to long and satisfying careers, but will also enable them to change the world.

"Think of your completion of this program as your ticket to change the world," she said.

Graduate Charlene-Jay Morgan, resident of Jamaica, Queens, gave the student remarks and expressed the graduates' appreciation for being able to study at New York Methodist Hospital.

"We are grateful to be at one of New York's greatest hospitals," she said. "We wouldn't have been able to gain such enormous knowledge without our lab experience and the medical technologists that helped us along the way. We look forward to a future of serving humanity."

Joining Morgan as members of the School of Medical Technology's class of 2008 are: Edna Blaber, of Flushing, Queens, Olga Brank, of Bay Ridge, Ned Jones of Crown Heights, Alicia Lovell of East Flatbush, Sumen Mahmood of Bay Ridge, Courtney Rubin of Cobble Hill, and Sarah Tang of Bensonhurst.

For more information on New York Methodist's School of Medical Technology, which is a division of the Hospital's Center for Allied Health Education, please call 718-645-3500.

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY



A few weeks after horse owners complained of equine injuries along an ill-maintained bridge path, volunteers laid down new gravel on Tuesday.

A bridle path to safety

By Jessica Finger
For The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Park's bridle path got some much-needed grooming on Tuesday — a long-overdue Band-Aid for what some horse owners say is an equine safety trap.

As The Brooklyn Paper reported last month, the eroded, rocky paths have caused severe injuries to horses housed in the Kensington Stables.

So this week, volunteers raked new gravel along a third of the pathway connecting an exercise paddock near the park's southwestern entrance to the stables, the only remaining horse barn in Brownstone Brooklyn. The Park Alliance, the stables, Goldman Sachs, and GALLOP, a horse-therapy group, ponied up the cash for supplies.

"It's a good temporary effort," said Walker Blankenship, president of Kensington Stables. "But we'll have a better idea of how effective the work was when it rains again."

A full repair of the three- and a-half-mile bridle path is prohibitively expensive, according to the Prospect Park Alliance, which typically shovels fresh ash onto the pathway when rainstorms wash out the surface and reveal large, fetlock-harming boulders.

"Someone would have to win the mega-millions to pay for [a truly effective drainage system]," Blankenship said.

'Purchase' is returned — this time to dust

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Demolition teams have made short work of the iconic Purchase Building beneath the Brooklyn Bridge to clear space for a piazza that will be part of the controversial Brooklyn Bridge Park project.

The condo, commercial and open-space development along the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfront has long anticipated the destruction of the two-story Modernist relic built as part of FDR's New Deal in the 1930s — and that's a good thing, say project boosters, who are excited by the current plan for a Euro-style open space under the Brooklyn Bridge where the Purchase Building stood.

"You gain a wonderful park entrance with great views of the harbor," and Regina Myer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Development Corporation. "You get the ability to connect the northern and southern portions of the park."

The brick-and-concrete building could not have been torn down had it not, in 2006, lost the protection it enjoyed as part of the Fulton Ferry Historic District. At that time, city officials lobbied the Landmarks Preservation Commission to cut the building out of the district because the historic building would obstruct views from the new park.



The Purchase Building, under the Brooklyn Bridge, before it was demolished.

Some lament that decision. "We're losing a good example of early Modernist architecture when that thing was done with a certain kind of panache," said Francis Morrone, a Brooklyn architecture critic.

The building had many lives during its years in city service, earning its name after being christened as a warehouse for the city's "Department of Purchase." It remained a warehouse for other city agencies for decades, and, for a time after the 9-11 terrorist attacks, became the home of the Office of Emergency Management.

The plaza is slated to be finished by next fall, according to Brooklyn Bridge Park officials, making it one of the first areas of the long-delayed park that could open. But with only \$225 million of the soaring \$300-plus-million park construction budget allocated so far, about one third of the development has been delayed until additional funding is secured.



In just a few days this week, workers almost entirely demolished the Purchase Building, a 1930s-era Modernist structure that preservationists hoped to save. The building was razed for the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Brokeback fountain?

Ledger had eyes on Bedford Ave watering hole

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it the Heath Bar.

Late actor — and former Brooklynite — Heath Ledger will be involved in at least one new project: before his death in January, Ledger was a silent partner in a watering hole at the corner of Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street.

Tentatively named "The Five Leaves" after a record by the late folk crooner Nick Drake, the bar and restaurant will have nautical themes designed by some of the creative types behind restaurants including Moto at the corner of Broadway and Hooper Street and Manhattan's Smith and Mills, the nightlife blog Down by the Hipster reported last week.



Before he died, Heath Ledger invested in the Five Leaves Bar, which is expected to open soon at the corner of Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street in Greenpoint.

Five Leaves will serve high-end comfort food created by a former sous-chef from Diner, a nearby restaurant, an insider told The Brooklyn Paper.

The upscale American cuisine shouldn't come as a surprise, considering that one of Ledger's partners in the project is Judd Longell, a bartender and waiter at the epicurean comfort food destination Dumont on Union Avenue.

The "Dark Knight" star chose the narrow storefront across the street from McCaren Park while skateboarding around Williamsburg and Greenpoint with Longell.

"I showed him other spots, and he wouldn't look at anything else," Longell told People Magazine. "He liked this corner. He envisioned basically just hanging out at the park across the street. He was a big fan of Williamsburg."

— with Allison Bosworth

Rx ... for kids

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

They say a spoonful of sugar will help the medicine go down, but when that won't work, Park Slope parents can turn to KidsRx.

Signs went up this week announcing the arrival of the kid-friendly pharmacy at the former Second Street Café spot on Seventh Avenue.

Expanding from another location in Tribeca, the pharmacy is known for customizing formulas, creating hard-to-find items, and flavoring other remedies to make them less daunting to kids. It also has a Thomas the Tank Engine play table in the waiting area.

The New York magazine cited the pharmacy as "Best Kids' Drugstore" in 2007.



The Second Street Café space will soon become a "Kids Rx" store.

FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

11 am Golf clinic: Von King Park (Greene, Marcy, Lafayette and Tompkins avenues in Bedford/Stuyvesant). Free. Call (917) 250-0184 for info.

Noon Learn about pre-Revolutionary American life. Fort Greene Park Visitors Center (center park at Myrtle Avenue between Washington Park and North Portland Avenue, in Fort Greene). Free. Call (718) 722-3018 for info.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm "Pinocchio." Puppetworks (336 Sixth Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$7. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.

2 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm: Cole Brothers Circus. Floyd Bennett Field (southern end of Flatbush Avenue, south of the Bell Parkway in MBI Basin). \$17, \$12. Call (800) 796-5672 for info.

3 pm Family fishing. Prospect Park Audubon Center (center park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue). Free. Call (718) 287-3400 for info.

4 pm: The Sippy Cup. Prospect Park Bandshell (Prospect Park West at Ninth Street in Park Slope). \$3. Call (718) 855-7882 for info.

5:30 pm: Family disco party. The Movie Spot (81 Malcolm Ave., at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights). Free. Call (718) 923-9710 for info.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm "Pinocchio." See Saturday, Aug. 2.

2 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm: Cole Brothers. See Saturday, Aug. 2.

MONDAY, AUG. 4

2:30 pm: Summer arts program. Pierpont Playground (western end of Pierpont Street in Brooklyn Heights). Free.

3:30 pm: Creative movement class. Pierpont Playground (western end of Pierpont Street, Brooklyn Heights). Free.

4 pm: Learn origami. Brooklyn Public Library's Bay Ridge branch (7233 Ridge Blvd., between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge). Free. Call (718) 748-5709 for info.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6

4 pm: Uncle Rock. Carroll Park (Carroll Park at Smith Street in Carroll Gardens). Free. Visit www.carrollparkbrooklyn.org for info.

THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Noon-6 pm: Free rides. Prospect Park Carousel (center park on Flatbush Avenue just north of East 10th Street). Call (718) 965-0999 for info.

10 am-6 pm: Free admission. New York Aquarium (West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue in Coney Island). Call (718) 265-FISH for info.

FRIDAY, AUG. 8

11 am: Golf clinic. See Saturday, Aug. 2.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm "Pinocchio." See Saturday, Aug. 2.

1 pm: Art workshop. Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (80 Hanson Pl., at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene). \$4 adults, free for kids 12 and under. Call (718) 320-0492 for info.

2 pm-4 pm: Storytime. Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights). Free. Call (718) 623-7205 for info.

5:30 pm: Family disco party. West at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights. Free. Call (718) 923-9710 for info.

To list your event, e-mail information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

It's empty nest time in the Slope

Sleepaway camp has really changed since the days Smartmom was a camper at various non-camp summer getaways. As a kid, she went to camp for eight weeks every summer, a nice long stretch of time to adjust to a change in scenery, a new cast of characters and a healthy taste of self-reliance.

At the same time, Smartmom's parents got a major vacation from being parents. They came to visit on visiting week and dinner and that was it. They had eight blissful weeks to themselves.

Smartmom remembers crying her eyes out on the last day of her favorite camp. She actually didn't want to go home and it took a few days to get back in the swing of things on the Upper West Side.

She never really found out what her parents did while she was away. But she sort of assumed they weren't exactly pinning for her return.

So it was an even trade. Smartmom loved her time away at camp, and her parents loved their time to be alone.

While plenty of Park Slope kids go to camp for eight weeks, most tend to go away for two or four. Many parents around here don't admit to needing a vacation from their kids. That would be sacrilege: a form of child abuse. Not wanting to be around your kids 24/7? Why, that's a sign of bad parenting.

But parents do need the break — and need to stop feeling guilty about it.

Since the beginning of July, Smartmom has run into more than a few summer empty-nesters tooling around the Slope, having romantic dinners, catching a first-run flick or just holding hands on a nighttime stroll through the neighborhood (remember those?).

It's not that these parents don't miss their kids. It's just that they enjoy taking a break from their role as parents. Smartmom likes it so much that she booked a week at the Sea Breeze on Block Island to revel in alone-time (she takes a break from Hepcat, too).

Smartmom was lucky that Hepcat was willing to stay home



By Louise Crawford

to supervise Teen Spirit while she was writing fiction at the beach.

Some parents are clearly enjoying their kid-holiday, but some look bereft. They miss their kids and can't wait for their return. In a sense, summer camp is empty-nest practice, a stage of life that terrifies many Park Slope parents.

It's as hard for some parents to be away from their children as it is for their kids to be away from them.

But it's not like you can e-mail your kid as many times a day as you want. At the Oh So Fussy One's camp, parents can e-mail their kids on a password-protected Web site. The kids, however, cannot e-mail their parents.

Whatever happened to sending a heartfelt letter or postcard? I miss you. Please write. Hope you're having fun.

The problem with e-mail access is that Smartmom feels re-miss if she doesn't send OSFO one, two, even three electronic updates a day (after all, The Brooklyn Paper is now posting news stories every single day).

Smartmom can just imagine the dining hall debacle. Some kid gets pages and pages of e-mails. "Nothing for you, kid. Sorry."

It just breaks Smartmom's heart. Yesterday, finally, Smartmom found two photographs of her OSFO participating in a camp-wide Olympics. From what Smartmom could tell, OSFO looked very engaged and even (dare she say it?) happy.

It was a huge relief to see that picture. Especially as it came just a day after OSFO's first letter

arrived by snail mail.

"Dear Mom and Dad, I like camp — sometimes, I have to take swim classes and really hate them. The food is bad!"

OSFO's white stationery was covered in frowning faces. And in teeny tiny letters near the bottom of the page it said, "I am kinda homesick."

Talk about writer's block on Block Island! Smartmom could barely type a word after Hepcat read her letter over the phone. Sure, the letter was written on the second day of camp (what kid isn't miserable on day two?), but it certainly put a damper on Smartmom's creativity (insert Smartmom's creativity joke here).

When Smartmom got back from Block Island, she found another letter in the mailbox. It was written a full four days after the last one. In big block letters, OSFO wrote:

"NEVERMIND. Camp is fine."

And there were loads of smiley faces.

Relief and happiness coursed through Smartmom's veins. That night, she and Hepcat spent their first night of freedom together. They tried Park Slope's new Five Guys Burgers and later had margaritas at the Miracle Grill, where she saw some summer empty-nesters.

"Your kids are in camp?" she asked.

"Yes, but we just got a call that our youngest son is homesick," the mom said. "We're about to talk to him."

She saw their cellphone on the table, and Smartmom felt a pang in her heart. She remembered that "first letter" from OSFO.

"Give it a few days," she told her friends. "He'll be fine."

And she meant it. Before they know it, the kids will be back. Summer empty-nesting season will be over and life as a family will resume.

Until next summer, that is. Might as well enjoy your romantic dinner for two.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Bitch Knows Brooklyn," a Web site.

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